

JAN 18 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

The Honorable Keith A. Swartz - States

This letter is being written to express to you how your decision could have a bearing on the health and financial aspects of my wife and myself.

First I would like to tell you something about myself, I started to work for Peabody Coal Co August 1968 in a underground mine the coal seam was 48 inches to 52 inches in height my job was roof bolting roof bolters make the top safe for others to do their job this job is considered to be the most dangerous in the mine

With the low coal seam this requires the work to be done on you knees

this has been my job off and on during the 33 years I worked for Peabody Coal Co.

as you may know there are many dangers miners are faced with

during the time spent inside the
mine

Explosions, Respirable dust, Alcohol hazards,
roof falls, Crushings from Mobil Equipment
Aften times back breaking laborus
Work. Just to name a few

Some may ask what would anyone
Want to be a underground miner

at the time i started working
for Peabody Coal the wages we good
for the area i live in (Southern Ill)

Also the medical benefits provided
through the contract between Peabody
and the United Mine Workers was the
most likely reason for me to choose
mining

the promise of life time Medical
insurance after 20 years was what
made me stay on my job for 33
years

i had to retire early because both
knees were replaced, this is what
put me out earlier than i wanted
to retire

i have other injuries a crushed

right foot that has permanent nerve damage, lost digits to my hand along with other minor injuries.

at my age along with existing health problems I don't think private health insurance will be a option. due to the cost.

Many parts of this country depend on coal for electricity the coal comes from the ground because the miners risk their life and health to get it to the power plants

Most people never think about this until the lights go off or until the heat and air are not there for the comfort of them and their family

Many of us feel like we are to Peabody as a grease rag to a mechanic

in other words when we are all used up, just throw us into the trash can.

Thousands of miners along with myself think this move by

Peabody to put only the mines represented by the U.M.W.A into the Patriot Pool was a well thought out plan to release themselves from the contract to provide insurance for retired miners and their family.

During my years with Peabody I was faithful to the company by being on time, regular worker also productive.

Many weeks were 7 days a week because of maintenance

More 7 days than 6 days

I am a 3 year Veteran of the United States Army, joining at the age of 17 during the Viet Nam War. I love my country and also believe in the Justice System.

I believe when you see the facts you will make a just and fair judgement.

Thank you for your service and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully Charles Merritt
 U M W A = LOCAL 1802

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Shawnee Town MO
63984

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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MO

*Re case No 12-51503
Honorable Cathy Swartz - States*

*Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
11 South 10th Street 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102*

