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JAN 18 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

January 15, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Re: Case No 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

Your Honor:

I am writing this letter concerning the bankruptcy hearing of Peabody Coal Co., Arch Mineral, & Patriot Coal Co. I have been a member of the United Mine Workers Of America since January 1974. I have acquired approximately 27 years of actual pension time (having been laid off and called back to work several times). During layoffs I worked at other jobs but always returned to the mines because of wages and benefits. I had also started building time towards a "secure pension & benefit plan".

I am and have always been thankful for my job. It has put a roof over our heads and allowed my wife and I to raise a family. Having worked six days a week, I missed a lot of time with my boys. However, that was the schedule set forth by the company and we (the union) agreed to it.

Now the Companies wish to bow out of their contractual agreements with the Union. I am concerned should the Companies move forward and win this action, it would set a precedent for other companies to opt out of paying benefits for contractual agreements.

I ask that in deliberating this case you take into consideration the immediate and catastrophic impact my and other U.M.W.A. families will suffer should the Companies prevail.

I will be 60 years old this year . I have worked hard to secure a future for my family. It's too late for me to start over with another company & hope to secure health benefits. I cannot afford health insurance out of pocket for my family. At my age the premiums would be astronomical. I know legally we can't be turned down for pre-existing conditions, but it doesn't stop insurance companies from charging HIGHER premiums. We learned this during layoffs.

I know I am not the only one concerned about this hearing. This will affect not only the retiree's, but the aged , the sick and the widowed. Again I ask that you consider our plea. PLEASE don't let us lose what we've worked hard for all of our lives .

Sincerely,

Frankie Lane McEuen

Frankie McEuen
736 Gish Rd.
Bremen, KY. 42325

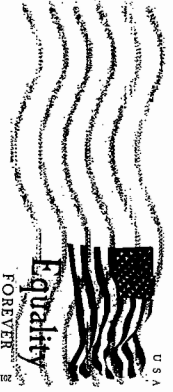
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
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ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MF

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