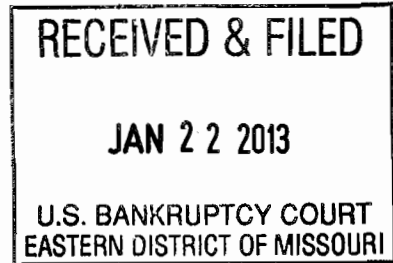


Hubert R. Morris
PO Box 1
Rock Creek WV 25174

January 17, 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



Dear Judge Surratt-States

I am writing this letter concerning the matter of the bankruptcy filing of Patriot Coal Company. I am a UMWA member and have always been since I started working in the mines at age 18. I am now 55 and have recently retired after being laid off from work on February 2, 2012 due to a mine closure. I fear that the health care that I have been promised may now be taken away because of the actions of Peabody and Patriot Coal not wanting to honor their contractual obligations.

I am a middle class American who has worked hard all my life providing for my family. I started work in the mines on 09/28/76 for Armco Steel, which was bought by Peabody Coal Company on 02/27/84. Patriot Coal (subsidiary of Peabody) took over on 10/31/07 until 02/02/12 (layoff date). For 23 years I worked for Peabody and about the last 5 years I worked for Patriot. I had many opportunities to work for different companies, but as a UMWA member I chose to stay because of the benefits and medical insurance that was provided to the employees and promised to the retirees. (If Patriot is not held responsible, then Peabody should be).

After working 36 years in the mining industry, I am now facing several back surgeries and 2 knee replacements. I am currently seeing 5 different doctors on a regular basis for a variety of health problems and I take several prescription medications. Without the health care that I was promised, I would not be able to continue to get the treatment that I need. And it not only involves me, but also my wife. *Now is the time we need our medical insurance---the health care card that was promised to us.*

I am pleading to you to do the right and fair thing for the employees and retirees of Peabody and Patriot Coal. I have worked long and hard for my benefits and no company should have the right to discontinue them. I hope to see in this court action that the benefits which were agreed upon by the company and UMWA members are upheld. We deserve to receive the benefits and health insurance that was promised to us.

Please--- help the retirees to keep our benefits and medical insurance!

Thank You



Hubert R. Morris

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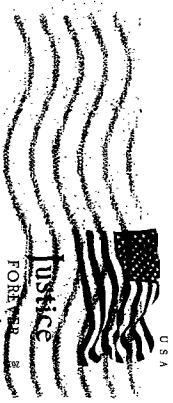
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI-MR

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis MO 63102

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