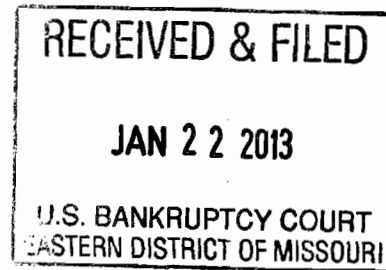


James F. Hammel  
1107 Pinewood Lane  
Waterloo, IL 62298  
January 18, 2013



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

Your Honor

I am writing to you about how the bankruptcy case that Patriot Coal has filed will affect me and my family, as well as thousands of other men and women and their families.

I worked for 24 ½ years for Peabody Coal and my father and father-in-law also worked for Peabody Coal over 30 years each. There was the promise of a pension and health insurance for all the UMWA workers. Now the Company wants to take away the promises that we worked so hard for.

In 2011 my wife was diagnosed with Marginal Cell Lymphoma. It was devastating, but I knew that we had insurance and was so thankful for that. If we lose this, it will make it very difficult for me to pay for her treatments and the doctors that she needs to see. I know there are hundreds of UMWA workers in the same situation as us, and even worse.

I hope that you consider this when you make your decision.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I am sincerely grateful.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James F. Hammel".

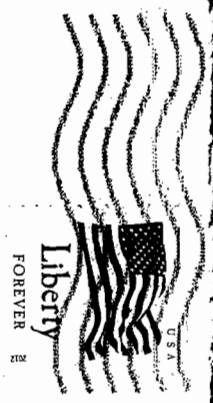
James F. Hammel

James J. Hamel  
1107 Fincrest Lane  
Wentzler, IL 62298

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

The Honorable Kirby A. Sussatt - States  
Re: Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas J. Eagleton 21.1. Crusthouse  
111 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St Louis, MO 63102

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI  
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