

RECEIVED & FILED

JAN 22 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

January 17, 2012 | 1

The Honorable Kathy Surratt-States:

Your Honor, I am writing this letter on the behalf of my father, Roger Walker. He is a retired employee of RiverQueen/Peabody Coal Company, having worked for them in Western Kentucky for over 20 years. His job provided a solid, reliable income for our family throughout those years. Unfortunately, some years back the Peabody operation in Western Kentucky, where my father was employed ceased their operations. As you can imagine this was quite a blow to the working men and women that had depended on the mine to feed themselves and their families for decades. At that time, Peabody did pay for a number of their employees to seek retraining to aid in their re-entry into the workforce. My father chose to study cosmetology, and within a short period of time was able to earn a modest living in this new field. He continued to work in this area until his health began to fail. He now suffers from R.A. or rheumatoid arthritis. This disease has crippled his hands and feet to the point that he can no longer remain employed in any capacity. He also suffers from various heart problems and black lung. His heart problems can more than likely be attributed to age, family history, etc., as can the rheumatoid, however the black lung that my father has been diagnosed with undoubtedly is a result of his years working for River Queen/Peabody Coal.

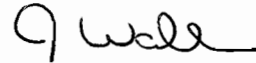
As you might imagine I was completely shocked, as was my father and the rest of our family to learn that with River Queen/Peabody Coal filing for bankruptcy, that my father's entire pension and retirement would be lost, including his health insurance. Lost and gone forever after the promises made to him and thousands of his fellow miners by River Queen/Peabody Coal, that the money would be there for these hard working men and women to live on throughout what were supposed to be their "golden years" of retirement. Your Honor, my father raised me as a child to be honest, and that when a man gave his word or promised something, that he must

follow through with that promise no matter what. It seems more than a bit wrong to me for River Queen/Peabody Coal to be able to take the promises that they made to their workers, workers that have since suffered from numerous health problems relating to their time working in the mines and basically tell them, we're sorry, but all of the money is gone. These men and women who sacrificed their health for the mines and had promises of a secure future made to them are having their financial security ripped away because of River Queen\Peabody Coal's poor management of their business operations. I fully understand that given the uncertainty of the financial times in which we are living, that businesses will fail and that some will even go under, but keeping the promises made to the men and women who sacrificed both their time and health to make River Queen/Peabody Coal at one time a very profitable company should not be forgotten or simply allowed to be swept under the rug.

Your Honor, I am unsure as to your role in the River Queen/Peabody Coal bankruptcy proceedings, but I ask that during your deliberations in this case that you to please not forget the thousands of workers who gave so much to the company in the "good years," only to see their promised retirement benefits vanish at an age when many of them are incapable of rejoining the workforce or retraining to embark upon yet another career path. Your Honor, please do not forget that these are not simply stories of hard times or bad luck, but that these are people, men and women with hopes, dreams, families and now an uncertain future lying ahead of them, which is of no fault of their own. In this country, as children we are taught to believe that with hard work anything is possible. We are taught that if we are honest and fair with others that we can expect the same treatment in return. We are taught that a promise is a promise and not just lip service that can be arbitrarily cast aside when it is no longer convenient for one party to fulfill. What is happening to the River Queen/Peabody Coal employees is a travesty and a shame, one

that cannot be allowed to go forward without a serious challenge to those who are ultimately responsible for this situation. I thank you for your time in reading this letter and trust that you will use your best judgment in deliberating and making a decision in this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jacob A. Walker

2011 E. Franklin St.
Evansville, IN 47711

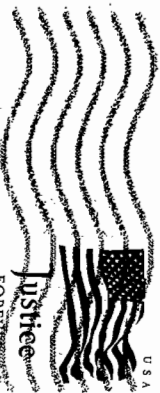
RECEIVED + FILED

2013 JAN 22 AM 10:42

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

The Honorable Kathy A. Surnath - States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Egleston US Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, Mo. 63102

EVANSVILLE IN 476
18 JAN 2013 PM 2 L



63102142599

