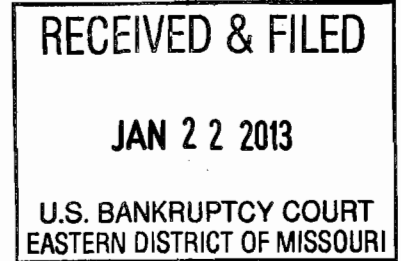


J.T. Shouse
459 Bob Hite Rd.
Morganfield, KY 42437



January 18, 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 63103

I am sure that you have many letters regarding the Patriot bankruptcy filing, but hopefully I can add an additional opinion.

I worked for Peabody Coal Co. as an underground miner for 30 years. I chose and stayed in this profession because the pay was well above average and the benefits were good. Included with the benefit package was insurance for retirees and families. This was a contract between Peabody Coal and the miners who worked for them.

This contract agreement was advantageous to both Peabody and the miners. Peabody made huge profits from the sale of the mined coal, while the miners benefitted from the pay and felt that they had future security. I sincerely believe that the spinoff of Patriot Coal was a deliberate and well thought out maneuver that was done specifically to rid Peabody of the pension/insurance liability for retirees' benefits. I never worked a single shift for Patriot Coal, yet Peabody transferred my pension/insurance liability over to Patriot. Peabody Coal is trying to change the rules after the game is over.

My wife and I planned our retirement around the insurance and pension benefits that I worked 30 years to accumulate. These benefits are a huge part of our retirement income. Now there is a possibility that these benefits will evaporate. What are we to do if our insurance and pension benefits are taken away? We are beyond employable age (63) and have health issues.

In addition to my concern for myself and my family, I am very concerned that this bankruptcy could set a precedent that would make it possible for any corporation to transfer employee benefit liability to another company with the sole purpose of avoiding responsibility for promised benefits.

Most Sincerely,



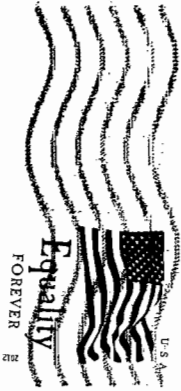
J.T. Shouse
Peabody Retiree, Local 1793

Copy to: UMWA International Union c/o Patriot Campaign
18354 Quantico Gateway Drive, Suite 200, Triangle, VA 22172-1779

J.T. Shouse
459 Bob White Rd.
Morganfield, KY 42437

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