

January 12, 2013

Robert Repass Jr.
26 Sitting Bull Drive
St. Albans, WV 25177



To the Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States:

Your Honor, I write to you today not as a union member or a coal miner, but on behalf of my father, grandfathers, uncles, and brother who are coal miners and union members. My father has worked the last thirty-seven years for Peabody Coal Company and now Patriot Coal Company. My father is not a normal coal miner. I have never seen someone work as hard as him in such a hazardous occupation. My father for many years worked 7 days a week approximately 10 hours a day to provide a good life for my two sisters and myself. He worked this hard knowing that one day he would be able to retire and be rewarded for his efforts with a pension and healthcare throughout the rest of his life. Now that this may not happen for him, he is incredibly confused on what to do. He is at a point to where, he probably should not work anymore because of the deterioration of his body from such a grueling occupation, but with his age, retirement may not be an option because of the lack of healthcare and the pension that he has counted on since the day he began working in the mines.

I appreciate all that my father has done, working extremely hard to provide a better life for his family. Because of my father's hard work, I was able to attend Concord University and obtain a Bachelor's Degree, and also obtain my Master's Degree from Marshall University in Human Resources Management. I find it ironic with my education that I am writing a letter asking to not let a company deprive so many families of what they have counted on their entire lives. I have owned two successful restaurants and currently work for a dynamic healthcare company that continues to expand. With my experience and education, I understand the strains

that a union can put on a company. I understand that the legacy costs are unsustainable to a company that was created to bust the union and free two of the most successful coal companies of its obligations to the revenue producers that have built those two companies to what they are today.

I believe that this battle is a battle about ethics, not of the sustainability of Patriot Coal. Since the beginning of time, individuals have worked long hours with little pay just to survive in extremely dangerous occupations because of the greed of business owners. Individuals then discovered that as a collective group, their lives could improve tremendously. Thus, unions were started to provide safer working conditions and fairness in pay. Massey Energy showed us that without safe working conditions what happens, with the twenty-nine miners lost their lives in 2010. In the beginning of the 20th century, these practices were very common. Families were required to move out of their coal company houses and forever be in debited to the coal owners if the same unfortunate disaster happened. The union was created to prevent such harsh practices from happening. Many men lost their lives, so that the future miners could live and work in a more prosperous environment.

Patriot Coal will come out of the bankruptcy. It will not be able to sustain all of its current liabilities that it had before the bankruptcy with today's coal market and legacy costs. I do believe that Arch Coal and Peabody Coal should help with these liabilities. These three companies can sustain these liabilities and be profitable at the same time. I ask of you Your Honor that you hold all three companies ethically accountable to the retirees and union members that have given more than twenty years of their life to the revenue and profits that these companies has experienced. These companies who began with such harsh practices should be held liable to the bargaining agreement that they have agreed to, over the last 100 years. Without

the pensions and healthcare that my father, my retired grandfathers of forty-three years in the union, and all of my seven uncles have been counting on for the last fifty years, their livelihoods will no longer be sustainable. This will drastically affect the economy of southern WV and cause it to be much more economically depressed than it already is.

In conclusion, Your Honor I ask a businessman and on behalf of my family from the bottom of my heart, that we find a solution to help Patriot Coal become sustainable while upholding the liabilities of it union retirees and members who are too far along to save enough money to retire the way they expected. I know that there will be no popular solution to the situation on either side. I do believe that with the help of Arch and Peabody, the liabilities can be sustained for the greater good of its retirees and help all the parties involved become more prosperous. Ethically, this is the right thing to do.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Repass Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Robert Repass Jr.

Robert Repass
26 Siting Bull Drive
St Albans WV 25177

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EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

The Honorable Kathy A Sumat-States

Case # 1251502

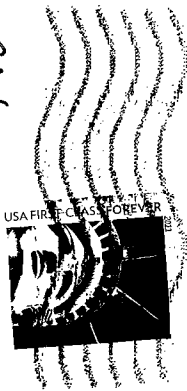
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111 South 10th Street

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