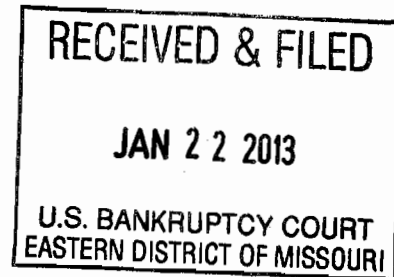


Joseph N. Cordray
223 Spring Hollow Rd.
Fairmont, WV 26554
retired coal miner

January 15, 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 63012



Dear Madam:

I am a retired coal miner, with 17 1/2 years as an underground mechanic and electrician. For the service I gave, I was promised life time Health Care and a retirement pension based on the company's payment of a set amount per ton (of coal mined), into our pension fund.

These benefits were promised by legal contract, in which coal miners forfeited higher wages in exchange for the guarantee of retirement Health Care benefits. Generations of miners have given their lives to insure this security.

Several years ago by Peabody and Arch, etc. formed Patriot Coal Co. They placed all their UNION mines in the Patriot Coal Co., which conveniently failed. I have NEVER worked for Patriot Coal...only Peabody. Peabody/Eastern bought Martinka Mine and River's Edge Mine where I worked.

Patriot Coal Co. wants to ignore our contract and wipe out our retiree Health Care benefits. They want to take away our benefits and declare bankruptcy and then continue operating as usual, like nothing happened. HOW DOES THE COMPANY EXPECT RETIREES TO LIVE IF THEIR PROMISED HEALTH CARE AND PENSION ARE TAKEN AWAY?

It is devastating to me, now retired and wondering, if Patriot gets by with not honoring their obligation, how I can afford Health Care for myself (with prostate problems, hypertension, etc. requiring 7 prescriptions per day) and my retired wife that is not old enough for Medicare. We are at the age where we very possibly will encounter additional health concerns. At my age, I feel that it would be very difficult to find a job to replace what I stand to lose if Peabody and Arch, etc. get away with their plan to dodge their health care obligations to the hard working American mine workers.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. Cordray
Retired Coal Miner

Mr. Joseph Cordray
Mrs. Martha Cordray
223 Spring Hollow Road
Fairmont, WV 26554

The Honorable Kathy A. Swratt - State
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Court House
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO
63012

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