

Dear Honorable Judge Surratt - States:

I am writing this letter to beg that big coal not be allowed to break the promises they made to the men and women who gave their blood and sweat over the years. My father never worked for Patriot yet he finds himself facing the very real possibility of losing all he worked so hard for my entire life. How is that possible? Growing up, I remember the pride my dad had, and still has, about being a coal miner. Southern Illinois didn't have many choices when it came to good jobs. The coal mines offered good pay and good benefits in return for good, hard work and Dad was grateful to be a part of it. His job allowed my mother to stay home with my sister and me. She will still say that is one of the greatest gifts my dad ever gave her. Times were sometimes tough, especially around contract time, but the union and company were always able to come to an agreement. The workers promised to work hard and produce profit and the company promised to take care of them. The workers held up their part of the deal. Shame on the company for trying to back out of their part! My dad had many opportunities to advance within the company but didn't want to risk losing the benefits promised to him as a union worker. He always had his eyes on the future. That future is now here.

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JAN 22 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

In all of my 34 years, I can't remember ever seeing him so worried. In 2001, my mother was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Dad's insurance is one of the primary reasons she continues to do so well. The number of medications she is on and the prices of those medications are astronomical. What will they do if they lose their coverage? How will they find anyone to cover this pre-existing condition? How will they pay for her medications? I worry for them. The last couple of working years my dad had to leave the coal business. The opportunities around the area dried up. He fortunately was able to find a good job but not one which offered benefits. Of course he didn't think he needed to worry. He believed in the company who agreed to provide for their workers for life. He believed in the signed contract he had between them and himself. He believed in their word and in the business that he had poured his heart and soul into. He may be retired but he still bleeds coal. You can take the miner out of the coal but you can't take the coal out of the miner. This entire situation is like a kick to the gut. We work to provide for the present and to secure the future. My parents thought they had done that. Coal is still making plenty of money. I beg you to please make them uphold the promises.

they made. Make them accountable to the thousands of workers they are attempting to break contract with and require them to take care of their responsibilities just as these men and women did for them. Thank you so much for your time and for the job that you do. I pray this case and others be easy decisions for you and that justice will prevail! What good is a promise in a contract if it can be ripped up and burned whenever the powers that be decide they are tired of playing and standing on their word?

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Corel A. Ashmore



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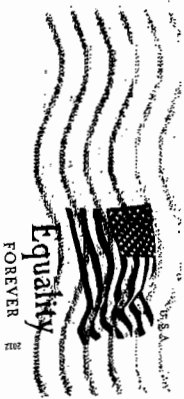
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

Honorable Kathy A. Durvatt - States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Bagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 S. 10th St. 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

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