

The Honorable Kathy A. Suratt States  
Re: Case No. 12-571502  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102

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JAN 24 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

In regard to the Patriot Coal bankruptcy case,

I would urge you to consider the union members who will be affected by this case.

I worked for Peabody Coal Camp #1 at Morganfield, Ky. for 17 1/2 years. I retired receiving retirement and insurance benefits through Peabody Coal Co. and UMW A.

In 2007 we were notified that I had been transferred to Patriot Coal Co. with the same benefits as before. I began to inquire as to who Patriot Coal was and what would happen if they went under. Understand that I had never heard of Patriot Coal and had never worked a day for them. I was told that in the event that Patriot went under Peabody would be required to pick us back up. Peabody had entered into an agreement with the federal government promising coverage for UMW A workers "from the cradle to the grave."

Now it seems they are trying to renege by dropping all of our benefits.

I want to tell you how this would affect me and my family. My wife and I both have very serious health

issues that could become much more serious, even life threatening if we lose our health insurance coverage.

A few years ago I applied for Black Lung benefits and was denied. However, I now have COPD, one of several health issues. My wife also has several issues. My wife also has several issues that require treatment. We both take numerous prescriptions that are very expensive.

We could lose all that we have most important of which is our health and possibly our lives.

I sincerely hope that you will consider how this case will affect peoples lives and force Peabody/Patriot to keep their promises to the federal government and union members.

Billy J. Dale  
100 S of Meadows Dr Lot 521  
Murray, Ky 40371

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ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MO

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St. Louis, MO 63102*

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*The Honorable Kathy A. Bennett - ALA  
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