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JAN 25 2013

Jan: 22, 2013

Re: Case # 12-51502

The Honorable Judge C. Gurratt - States

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

I am writing to protest the efforts of Peabody and ^{and} Patriot Coal to take away the benefits promised to the coal miners and their families.

These brave men fulfilled their duties by working years to earn their benefits. They risked their lives in dangerous working conditions. Over the years thousands were killed in explosions, fires, roof falls and many other accidents. My husband suffered a head injury requiring 44 stitches and 3 broken ribs. Many others suffer from the slower death called black lung disease. In the rural area where I live, covering a radius of about 3 miles, my husband drew his last breath in 2006 and 30 others over the past few years. Many others are confined to their homes dependent on oxygen. They could not pay for medical care without their health insurance.

I am the widow of a coal miner that worked underground 27 years. I am 77 years old and have a pre-existing condition that would make health insurance supplement unaffordable.

The loss of our benefits would be a serious economic blow to Western Kentucky. It would leave many of us in financial ruin. It would affect our ^{groceries,} banks, grocers, restaurants, new businesses that have recently opened, jobs, and related mining jobs.

In conclusion, I feel that is morally wrong for any company to defraud their workers of their commitment to them. These companies prospered over the years and reportedly worked out a scheme to rob the miners of their benefits. Will these brave soldiers of the underground be denied the agreements made?

I wish to thank you for letting me express my feelings and feel confident that justice will prevail.

Sincerely,
Shirley Wells
P.O. Box 164
Sullivan, Ky. 42460

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Sullivan, Ky. 42460

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The Honorable Kathy A. Swartz - States
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 S. 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, Mo. 63102

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2013 JAN 25 AM 10:56
CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MO

Re: Case #
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