

January 22, 2013

To The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States

Re: Case No. 12-51502,

I am 79 years old and a retired/disabled coal miner from Southern West Virginia. I began working for the coal mines in 1958. I became unable to work in 1990 due to injuries. I was a heavy equipment operator and drove a 100 ton Dart for many years. I have been employed by both Peabody and Patriot Coal. I suffered a back injury on the job while employed by Peabody Coal in 1990. In 2002, I had back surgery and in 2006 I had a lumbar fusion of the spine. I suffer constantly with pain and arthritis, hip pain, and neck pain. I have had both knees replaced in 2005.

There is numerous life threatening conditions that will affect my family and myself if I were to lose my health care benefits that were promised to me by these coal companies. I have diabetes and macular degeneration/diabetic retinopathy in both eyes, resulting in loss of vision. There is a large amount of scar tissue and leakage in my eyes due to this problem. I have been diagnosed with diverticulosis, high blood pressure and neuropathy. I also suffer from dementia, the onset of Alzheimer's, anxiety and depression. The aorta valve is also hardening in my heart causing fainting and sudden drops in my blood pressure. My wife has been diagnosed with osteoporosis, arthritis and high blood pressure. She is my primary care giver and cannot afford to go without medical insurance either.

I have already been denied a brain scan because of the unwanted change in insurance. I am terrified of losing the hospitalization I so desperately need. What quality of life I still have will be dramatically reduced should these companies be allowed to go back on the promises that were made to me and the many other people who gave their years of service to them. My family cannot live without my monthly pension/retirement that I worked for and was promised. I am unable to travel to St. Louis for these court proceedings and ask that you consider my letter and please hear my pleas. My health and future are in your hands and your courtroom. Please consider the devastation many retirees will suffer should these companies be allowed to continue with these bankruptcy attempts. Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Massie

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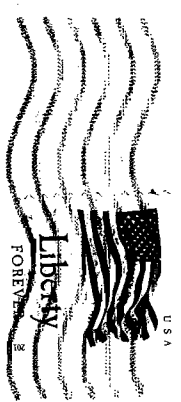
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The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
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