

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States

Jan. 22, 2013

Re: Case No. 12-51502

Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

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JAN 25 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States,

I'm writing concerning the bankruptcy case you have before you for Patriot Coal Corp. My name is Bobby Mullins and I worked almost 30 yrs. for whom they now call Patriot Coal. I retired in May of 2011 because of severe arthritis and have since had heart by-pass surgery. With regular exams and medication I am able to maintain somewhat limited function.

With all the things in life that can cause health problems the work and atmosphere of coal mining doesn't help. Miners are aware of this but you do what you have to do. In every contract negotiation I've been through with this company we discussed health care and chose to give up other benefits so we could preserve our health care benefit.

I was once asked what would I say to the President of Patriot Coal if I had a chance. I've thought about that question since and I think I would say something like this.

"I've worked for your company for 30 yrs, when it was called Eastern Coal, then Peabody Coal, then Patriot Coal and sometimes you called it Eastern Coal again. Over the years you gave me and my co-workers stickers, knives, certificates with Peabody's name of them telling us appreciate our achievements in safety, in production, and for loyal service. All a coal miner wants to do is a good job, like most other people; to do his job in a way he can be proud of and go home to his family at the end of the day and feel like he has earned his pay and that he can count on his pay.

I've seen miners covered in coal dirt laughing and kidding with others at the end of the day because they had a record production day. That's what they do. I've seen million dollar trains loaded and on it's way to the customer in less than 4 hrs. from the time the train arrived on site. I've got stickers that say how much you appreciated our work.

And now by shuffling papers around and changing names, but waiting till the price boom for coal has wained, you want to take my health card away and make me

a beggar, a ward of the state. This is how we're truly awarded for doing a good job? SHAME ON YOU! SHAME ON YOU!

Your honor, I know that the case before you has to be decided according to interpretation of the law. I pray that the law will not allow this kind of underhanded maneuvering to succeed.

That's what I wanted to say, your honor, and to say that my prayers will be for you as you do your job. GOD BLESS,

Bobby R. Mullins

Bobby R. Mullins
PO Box 454
Boit WV 25817

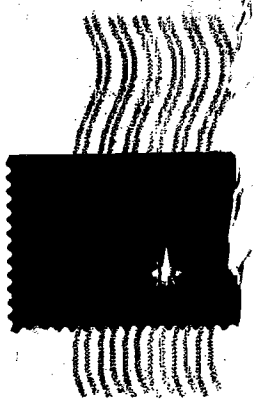
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EASTERN DISTRICT
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