

January 23, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A Surratt-States  
Re: Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S Courthouse  
111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102



Your Honor,

I worked twenty-seven years in a southern Illinois coal mine owned by Southwest Coal Company and later Arch Mineral Coal Company when they purchased the mine. I retired from mining when Arch closed the mine. Arch has since opened other mines in our area hiring non-union labor.

Arch and Peabody Coal Companies, with their shrewd lawyers and accountants, sold their retiree contract responsibilities to Magnum Coal and then to Patriot Coal based in Creve Coeur, Missouri. They knew Patriot Coal could not keep solvent with the contract promises. Patriot was built to fail.

Arch and Peabody are making lots of money. If Arch and Peabody Coal succeed in avoiding contract agreements with their Patriot Coal diversion, companies in the United States and all over the world will follow their example. There will be no reason to sign contracts.

With each contract agreement, I told my family the small wage increase was not as important as the medical insurance we will have when we are old. I voted on contracts with both parties signing the contract. Arch promised health benefits for employees and retirees.

Now I am living with rheumatoid arthritis. I would be bed-ridden if I did not take the expensive weekly injections and daily pill medications. I could not afford doctor visits or medications without insurance. I know how bad my health is and how my body hurts without medicine to control my disease. I am at a loss as to what I and my wife will do health wise and financially if Patriot can get out of the contract agreements. I am a Christian and know that suicide is not an option if my health insurance is denied. It is scary to think of retirees who may make that choice.

Your honor, I ask that you review the past and present actions of Arch, Peabody and Patriot Coal Companies to see that they cannot break their promises.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,



Lane Fuhrhop  
308 N Ann St PO Box 371  
Ava IL 62907



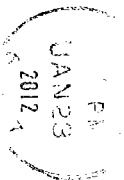
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI-MR

THE HONORABLE KATHY A SUPPATT-STATES  
RE: CASE NO 12-51502  
THOMAS F FAGLETON U.S. COURTHOUSE  
111 SOUTH 10TH STREET 4TH FLOOR  
ST LOUIS MO 63102



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