

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



January 21, 2013

Dear Ma'am

I am writing this letter for my mother. She is eighty years old and depends on the health care coverage provided through the negotiated contract that was agreed upon by Patriot Coal. Mom suffers from diabetes (presently she is taking 3 insulin injections a day), high blood pressure, obesity, cataracts in both eyes, malfunctioning kidneys, insomnia, heart issues, and arthritis. She orally takes prescribed medications for the illnesses listed above. She also has scheduled physicians appointments when necessary.

My mother's health care coverage benefits are derived from my father's benefits. He died approximately 11 years ago. Both my mother and father are/were part of "The Greatest Generation". My father survived the Great Depression, World War II where he was involved with the military campaigns in both Europe and the Pacific, and the coal mine where he was employed by Eastern Associated Coal Corporation (which later was purchased by Peabody Coal and then spun off into Patriot Coal. After the service my dad made coal mining a career and worked most of his 35+ years with this coal company with the promise that through negotiated contracts that he and his wife would have the health care coverage my mom is covered under today. My dad did not work for Eastern Associated Coal for the hourly wage, but rather for the benefits that was provided and agreed upon by the negotiated contracts. The premier benefit that was offered was health care coverage for him and my mom. Now Patriot Coal is trying to take away this coverage of my dad and men like my dad that put their lives on the line every day so that this coal company could make mammoth profits throughout the years and now they think

they have found another way to make more profits by denying what has been negotiated through the labor contract agreed upon by both the UMWA and Patriot Coal.

I do not know the law, nor do I pretend to, but I do know the difference between what is right and wrong and what is ethical and just. I know that if I enter into a contract I am expected to meet its obligations because that is what I have agreed to. I was taught that I am responsible for my actions and that my actions whether they are good or bad there are consequences that I will be held accountable to.

Before closing, I would like for you to think about the questions below:

- What does this case say about the confidence the common American has in corporate America?
- What has happened to our values in America?
- How can we as Americans want to be held accountable for our actions, when it appears that corporate America is consumed by greed and dishonesty and succeeds by playing by a different set of rules and takes advantage of the people that helped it succeed?

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wayne Stafford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely;".

Robert Wayne Stafford  
522 Barringer Drive  
Rustburg, VA 24588

R. W. STAFFORD

522 BRANMUEHL DR.

RUSTBURK VA

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

24588

THE HONORABLE KATHY A. SWEHRAT - STATES  
RE: Case No. 12-51502  
THOMAS F. BRACEGIRD U.S. COURTHOUSE  
111 SOUTH 10TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR

ST. LOUIS, MO

6310281125

