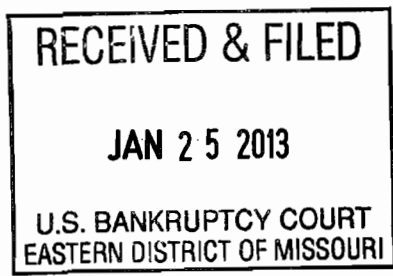


I

Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Thomas R. Eagleton Courthouse
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Mo. 63102



January 17, 2013

Dear Judge Surratt-States,

My name is Patricia Leet. I am writing to you concerning the Patriot Coal Bankruptcy. I started work for Peabody Coal in 1977 at their Camp 2 underground facility. I moved over to Peabody's Camp 9 washer plant in 1981. I still work there today.

I have been a single parent most of my life, Judge States. I have raised three (3) children of my own, taken in foreign students and eventually adopted one as my own. I have put myself through college on a weekend nursing program, first completing the LPN program, then rolling over into RN program. I worked 6 days a week and I had to change shifts two and sometimes three times in a week to finish my education. My dream has always been to become an RN; however, after thirty-one (31) years of working with five (5) years being laid off by this company, there are physical things I can no longer do, regardless of my dreams.

I have had six surgeries on both hands due to the constant use of high pressure fire hoses that we use to wash coal dust down in the plant. This was my job for many years. At first, it was 'trigger fingers' (tendonitis) on several of my digits and then it got to the point where I could not hold the hoses anymore because my hands would go numb. This became carpal tunnel and then it began moving up both hands and I had to have 'De quervain's' surgery. I no longer have full strength in my hands and I require help doing manual jobs at home.

In approximately 2007, I slipped off a Gob truck ladder while coming down one day. Earlier in the day, I had traded out trucks with another employee and unknown to me, the bottom three (3) steps had been ripped off earlier. We just pulled up next to each other and crossed our catwalks instead of climbing down and back up again. I attempted to jump the three steps and twisted my knee, tearing the cartilage. That resulted in surgery and I still have pain and swelling. I cannot walk for long periods or be as active as I once was due to this injury. I have asked my doctor if I would be able to work as a nurse. His reply was "probably only in limited circumstances" and not floor nursing and maybe only a light duty Nurse. I had planned on getting my thirty (30) years in at the mines and retiring to start my career as a Nurse, but I have had to put that off due to these injures and wondering if I can even do the job.

In May 2009, I was washing a conveyor belt outside on a Sunday idle shift. A hose coupling blew off the end of the hose due to the high pressure. The coupling end hit me in the left corner of my nose right above the mouth. I have coal under my skin that was never

Honorable Kathy Surratt-States

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properly washed out due to the bleeding and I have a scar there now. Our worker's compensation company would not let me consult a plastic surgeon to correct this scar and to remove the coal from under my skin because it was regarded as cosmetic. I still have numbness above the left side of my mouth. I was advised the feeling may or may not come back. I not only have visual scars from my thirty (30) years of service to Peabody Coal, but I am wounded and scarred deep within because of Peabody/Patriots decision to defraud their employees.

I have worked for years, looking forward to promises that they made and I dared to dream about the rewards that I worked for and earned; planning what time I have left to do something that's been in my heart for years. It was the only thing that kept me going, all those years, your Honor. It was my dreams that kept me going back every day when things were very bad for me. I felt I had been passed over so many times while watching male employees get promoted. It kept me going when I was kicked and cussed out by a company foreman, while other people were standing by, too gutless to stand up for me or even acknowledge the incident occurred.

I've driven home many nights crying after being put on a straight second shift, which I believed to be retaliation for defending myself. I had to drag my five (5) year old daughter home from a babysitter's house after midnight, put her to bed, only to have to get her up for kindergarten the next morning. Those were extremely hard years for me, Judge States.

I am not asking you to determine if I was mistreated or discriminated against. I already know that!! I want my health care. I want my Pension and I want ALL of it. I want it because I earned it. I have suffered to keep this job because I was working toward my pension. I was PROMISED my pension and my healthcare. I am too old to start over. The Justice Department has also recognized that Patriot Coal was created as a means to break the union and renege on their obligations to their employees.

In closing, I am asking you not to buy into Peabody/Patriot's pack of lies that they have purposely created, in order to steal my benefits and pension under the guise of bankruptcy.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Leet

Patricia's Best
11742 Hwy 41612
Coydon, Ky 40406

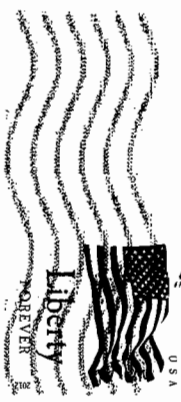
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EASTERN DISTRICT
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