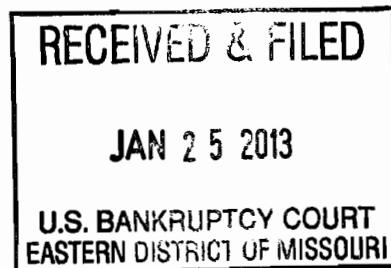


Billy W. Basham

1492 Daybreak Drive, Hanson, KY 42413

January 17, 2013



The Honorable Kathy A. Sturatt-States
RE: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 S. 10th. Street, 4th. Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

This letter is in reference to the filing of bankruptcy by Patriot Coal Company. I urge you to please consider the ramifications and hardships that will likely be heaped upon my fellow retirees and current employees of Patriot Coal company should they be allowed to shed their responsibility of providing retirement and most importantly the healthcare benefits that their employees were and are contractually responsible.

I'm a retired miner who worked for Peabody Coal Company from 1973 to 1994 at which time I retired from the coal industry and had to wait 12 years to be able to draw my meager pension and health benefits. During that time I had to undergo a triple Coronary-bypass surgery, and now I'm on a number of medications to be able to maintain a somewhat normal life. I worked 21 years for Peabody Coal without a lost time accident and also contracted Black Lung Disease as a result working in the mines.

I feel that this has been a well choreographed plan by Peabody to rid itself of responsibilities to it's employees. The fact that they (Patriot/Peabody Coal) tried to file bankruptcy in the state of New York away from the coal fields is evident that they have no intentions to provide for its employees. I think the Judge in New York saw through their scheme and moved the case to your jurisdiction so that it could be handled and justice for retirees would prevail.

It's Peabody Coal that should be liable for their employees that never worked for Patriot to secure funds in a Federal Trust of some form and continue to provide for their employees that they themselves signed contracts with the UMW of A to care for it's employees and retirees.

These are critical times in which we live and to let big corporate companies to renege on it's obligations is a slap in the face of the hard working people of this great nation. We are the ones who made these corporations great but yet they want to destroy what little we have and have worked hard to achieve.

I ask and pray that you will find favor in the working men and women of this nation and set a precedence to prevent big business from walking on it's employees and ruining their livelihood.

Respectfully Submitted,

Billy Basham

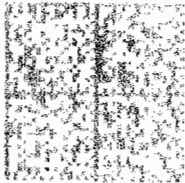
Billy W. Basham
1492 Daybreak Drive
Hanson, KY 42413

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

The Honorable Kathy A. Shurratt-States
RE: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 S. 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102



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