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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

January 19, 2013

Honorable Judge Kathy A. Surratt-States,

Thank you for reading my letter as I know your time is very valuable and limited so I will be as brief as possible. I am an eighty-two year old, retired, Union coal miner from Holden, West Virginia. I retired in 1992. I was an employee of Arch Coal and Patriot Coal for twenty-five years. Throughout the years when contracts were being negotiated both the Union and the coal company sat down at the table until an agreement from both sides was achieved. The terms of each contract was what both sides agreed to abide by and signed. This was a lawful contract.

Now, years after I and other miners have retired, having worked under the terms of the contract the coal companies don't want to abide by these terms. At this time in my life and my wife's, we are living on a fixed income dealing with age related problems, serious health conditions, and cost of living increases. I am unable to seek employment, what the coal company wants to do will put an extreme hardship, burden, worry and stress unnecessarily on my life. I worked earnestly and faithfully for my retirement benefits under the terms of the contract and feel that Arch Coal and Patriot Coal should honor their commitments to their retirees. I have faith in your decision that hard working Americans are protected by our judicial system. Thank you for your time

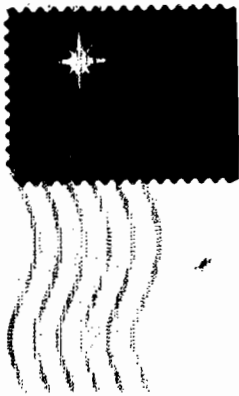
and consideration in this important matter affecting many lives.

Cordially,
Corman Butcher

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The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States
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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