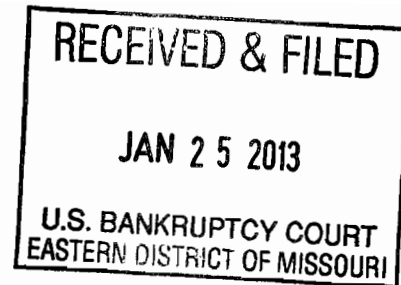


January 14, 2013

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



Dear Judge Surratt-States,

I am writing to let you know about my medical situation as you hear the case involving the retirees who have worked for Arch and Patriot Coal. I went to work for Hobet Mining in November, 1991. I was injured on the job October 4, 2000 while operating a bulldozer. I have had two major back surgeries since that time at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. Three discs (L4, L5, and S1) have been operated on by Dr. Phillip Tibbs. I have never been able to return to work. I am still under medical care every three months by my primary care physician. I have also developed Type II Diabetes and high blood pressure. My health insurance concern is not only for my medical condition, but for all retirees and the men who are still employed for these companies as well as Peabody. I was promised health insurance for my lifetime when Arch and Patriot Coal Companies took over Hobet. My children are now grown, but the hardships that my wife and I will face if I loose my health insurance will still affect our adult children and grandchildren. Please consider all of our circumstances as you make your decision in this case.

Respectfully,

Ronald G. Salmons
7649 Hamlin Road
Hamlin, WV 25523

