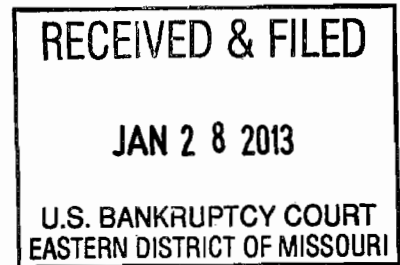


JUDGE KATHY A. SURRETT-STATES

Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102



Honorable Judge Kathy Surratt-States

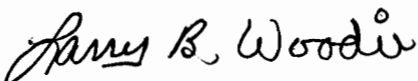
I'm writing with reference to Patriot Coal Company. I served my country for four years in the USAF, worked over 43 years and have never received an unemployment check. I am presently working for the U.S. Dept. of Labor as a Federal Mine Inspector. I retired from Peabody Energy in May 2007 at the age of 56 working as a Preparation Plant Manager. I have never worked for Patriot Coal and have never been notified by Peabody Energy that my benefits had been moved from Peabody Energy to Patriot Coal. I received a letter a few weeks ago that Patriot was going to court under Chapter 11 seeking permission to stop payment of my Retirement Medical Reimbursement Account. I'm attaching a copy of the letter that Peabody sent to me when I retired, outlining my benefits. I received credit for 28 and 3/4 years of service with Peabody, working long hours, six and seven days a week. Peabody told it's salary employees working East of the Mississippi River in 1999 that the company was going to cancel the salary retirement medical coverage in 2001 for all salary employees under the age of 55 years old. I had over 22 years of service at that time and was working as a Coal Preparation Plant Manager at the Wells Preparation Plant. At 48 years of age, a family of four, with two daughters in college, house payment, car payment, I left the company seeking work outside the coal industry to look for a job with Medical retirement benefits. I worked for just under two years as a school teacher and could not survive on the teachers pay. I applied for a job as a foreman back with Peabody and was hired as a foreman, and four months later was back working as the Wells Plant Manager. Peabody Energy was having problems retaining employees and started a Medical Retirement Reimbursement Account for its salary employees. It's hard to hold your head up and face the reality that Peabody Energy, a multibillion dollar company can beat its hard working employees out of their medical coverage two times. My retirement for 28 plus years is under \$1,400.00 a month, I have just over \$82,000 left in my reimbursement account to help pay for my medical premiums until my wife and myself reach the age of 66 to get on Medicare. I have worked over 43 years and cannot possibly work for another seven years with my health, to get my wife to retirement age. The Wells Business Unit made Peabody over 104 million dollars profit in the 2006 year and was projected to make over 60 million dollars profit in 2007. It's a shame that part of the profits could not be shared with the people that gave their lives to the company's success.

Patriot Coal was setup by Earl Engleharth and his lawyers, to transfer the legacy from Peabody Energy to Patriot Coal; Magnum Coal was purchased to muddy the legal responsibly between Arch Coal and Peabody Energy. I sat in too many meetings discussing the Eastern Associated Coal and Armco Steel legacy, Peabody Energies companies. Corporate greed has no conscience and to the company, people have the same value as the equipment, wear it out, dispose of it, and get a new one.

Judge Surratt, You are our last chance to stop the discrimination and apply equality for the working people. The retired salary people do not have a union to turn to for help.

Thank you for your time.

May God Bless



Larry B. Woodie

PO Box 56

Foster, WV 25081-0056

Peabody

Date: 6/18/2007 **SSN:** [REDACTED]

Name: Larry B. Woodie

Date of Birth: 4/3/1951 **Age:** 56.12

Termination Date: 5/4/2007 **Benefit Date:** 8/15/1978

Years of Service: 28.74

Retiree Medical Allowance: \$116,100

Because you were at least 55 years of age and had 10 or more years of service at the time of your termination, you are eligible to receive a benefit under the Peabody Investments Corp. and selected subsidiaries and affiliates Peabody Group Health & Life Plan.

The allowance you receive is calculated based upon your years of service as defined by the Peabody Group Health & Life Plan. Your credit will be calculated as follows: You will receive \$2,700 times years of service prior to age 50, plus \$8,100 times years of service from age 50-54, plus \$13,500 times years of service after age 55.

You can use the allowance at any time in the future to request reimbursement for any premiums you pay for medical, dental, or vision insurance for you and your eligible dependents (as defined by the plan). This insurance coverage can be through another employer's group health plan, an individual policy, COBRA, Peabody's Catastrophic Medical Plan or Medicare. If you die before the entire reimbursement allowance is used, your eligible spouse may continue to be reimbursed for such premiums until the allowance is exhausted. You will not be eligible to receive a lump-sum cash payment. If there is no surviving spouse eligible for benefits, the balance of your allowance remaining at the time of your death will be forfeited.

The retiree medical plan program will be administered by BeneFLEX HR Resources, Inc. To receive reimbursement, you will need to send proof of your paid premiums to BeneFLEX. Reimbursement will be made once a month for the current month or past month premium payments. Payments will not be made for future dates of coverage. A claim form is enclosed.

If you should have any questions concerning the retiree medical program, please contact the Peabody Benefits Call Center at 1-800-633-9005.

Computed By: Sueh Hwang

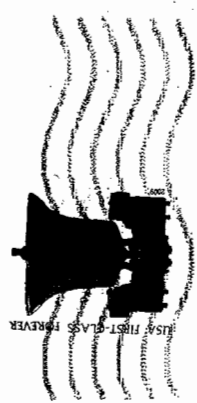
Approved By: Laura Crowder

KERRY B. WOODIE
P.O. Box 56
Foster, WV 25081

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Judge Kathy A. Suerath - Statler
Thomas F. Eagle for Posthouse
111 South 10th St.
St. Louis, MO. 63102

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