

Robert & Christine Stansberry
1520 Westbrook Drive
Morgantown, WV 26508

The Honorable Kathy A Surratt-States
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

Re: Case No. 12-51502

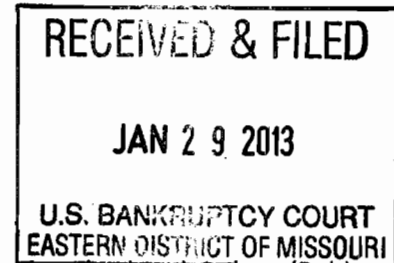
Dear Honorable Judge Kathy A. Surratt-States,

My name is Christine A. Stansberry, and I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband, Robert (Bob) G. Stansberry Sr. in regards to the bankruptcy case filed Patriot Coal Company and its affiliates. My husband has been a union coal miner for over 38 years; he was hired in March, 1975 by Eastern Associated Coal Company/Patriot Coal and Peabody Coal Company, and has worked both underground and surface mining operations. His paychecks come from Eastern Associated Coal Company. I mention this because over the years, the various affiliations and assorted corporate filings and purchases of different mining operations are hard to follow, even for Eastern's employees.

All of these years of working hundreds of feet deep down inside of a damp, wet, cold, dark coal mine, a mine that is filled with coal dust and is one of the most dangerous jobs on God's green earth, have really taken a toll on my husband's body. He was diagnosed with black lung in 1990, and must use inhalers for his lungs and to help his breathing. His back, legs, and hips from years of repetitive work and motion, as well as days spent crouching and crawling, cause him chronic pain. He is a diabetic, has high blood pressure, and has other significant medical problems that require daily medications. He has sleep apnea, and uses a C-PAP machine that forces air into his lungs at night. As his wife, I have watched his health deteriorate from the decades of harsh working conditions.

As for myself, I am oxygen-dependent, and take 8-10 nebulizer treatments containing 3 different medicines daily to treat chronic COPD. I have high blood pressure, diabetes, and anxiety - mostly caused by all the treatments from my breathing problems. I also use inhalers, and am insulin-dependent. I usually get sick every 4-6 weeks and must see my doctor for a shot of prednisone and antibiotics for acute attacks. As you no doubt have guessed, our health problems are significant, and we have always felt blessed to have my husband's benefits. Our medications cost at least \$3500/month, and we would have little choice but to stop taking most or all of our medications, and stop seeing our doctors.

Both Bob and I have life-threatening conditions, and we must have medications to live day-to-day. If Patriot and its affiliates are not made to fulfill their promises, we do not know how we are to survive. If I would have to be admitted to the ICU, as I was in November 2009 and in December 2010, we could not afford to pay for my hospital care for even one day (see enclosed documents) without my husband's



benefits. I have been admitted to the hospital outside of the ICU many additional times, and we would not be able to afford even one of those stays, either.

Patriot, Peabody, and Arch Coal Companies made a promise – by contract – to provide the coal miners a lifetime of health care, including medical, prescription and hospital coverage, retirement benefits, and a pension. My husband, and all of the miners, have worked hard for their benefits. They earned those benefits through blood, sweat, and tears. Coal mining is a dangerous job, and many coal miners have given their lives to the job. I'm sure you're aware of the history of the coal mines – how miners lived very meager existences, with little pay and with little-to-no protection from workplace abuses. The union formed by the UMWA and accepted by Patriot, Peabody, and Arch Coal Companies protects us from those past abuses, and works to ensure that miners receive adequate compensation for a very dangerous job. We have lived through some very difficult times as a coal mining family, and have survived several bankruptcy and reincorporation filings; this, however, is the first time that Patriot, Peabody, and Arch Coal Companies have attempted to discharge its obligations to the miners by taking away our promised benefits.

We ask that the benefits that Patriot, Peabody, and Arch Coal Companies contractually promised to the miners be upheld. These are not small promises that were made – there are many, many mining families – including ourselves – that will experience severe hardships that would utterly destroy them without the pension and medical benefits promised. Because of my husband's contract that was negotiated by the UMWA and agreed to by the coal companies, we thought that our pension would make-up the majority of our income after my husband's retirement. In fact, we counted on it – so much so that we didn't feel we needed any other retirement account. Now we are faced with the very real possibility that we will have NO income for retirement, other than what we would get through Social Security. My husband and I are very worried that if Patriot, Peabody, and Arch Coal Companies are not made to live up to their promises, many mining families – including ourselves – will lose our homes, our life-savings, and even our lives. This will be our reality without the benefits we earned, worked for, and were promised by Patriot, Peabody, and Arch Coal Companies.

I prayfully ask that Lady Justice be served for us by your Honor.

Most Sincerely,

Mr + Mrs Robert G. Stansberry Sr. Christine A Stansberry

Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. and Christine A. Stansberry Sr.

Robert G. Sr & CHRISTINE A. SPANBERRY
1520 Westbrook Drive
MORGANTOWN WV 26508-6252

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