

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

314 E. Cyrus St.  
P.O. Box 109  
Farmersburg, IN  
Jan. 24, 2013

Honorable Kathy A Surratt-States:

My name is James W Bishop and I am a retired coal miner who worked for Peabody Coal Company for 34 and one half years. I was forced to retire from the coal industry in the year of 2000 at the age of 54 after the mine closed. I worked third shift, second shift and day shift in my tenure in the mines, working many inclement days and nights working in the elements keeping the mine producing the coal which made Hawthorn Mine, one of Peabody's profitable mines. After retiring from the coal industry I worked 11 years for a doctor doing the maintenance of his office and properties. I had to work while drawing my retirement until I became old enough to draw my Social Security in order to make ends meet.

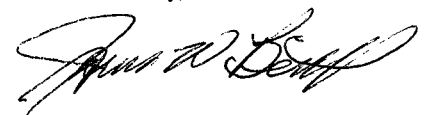
Since retiring in 2000 I have received numerous mailings and correspondence from Peabody and I received a notice in 2007 that our medical coverage was being transferred to Patriot Coal Company. I questioned in my mind, why we were being transferred to a company which I had not worked for. I do believe that the intent of Peabody was to transfer its health care obligations of their retired miners into a company which was destined to fail.

I am sixty-six years of age and my wife is seventy-two years of age. We have both worked all of our lives so we could retire, but as we get older we have numerous health issues. I have needed to have both knees replaced in the past few years and my wife has had to have open heart surgery for valve replacement. We are on Medicare, but we depend upon our retirement medical coverage. If we would lose this, it would stress our budget paying for supplemental health coverage. We would then need to take from one of our needs to pay for another.

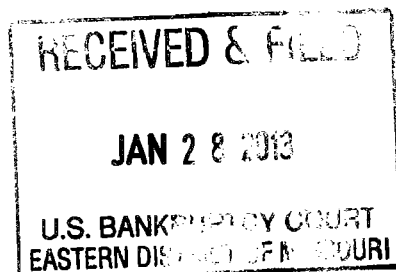
I hope you will take into consideration our needs and the needs of all the retired miners.

Thank You for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,



James W. Bishop



James W. Bishop  
14 E. Cyrus St.  
P.O. Box 109  
Farmersburg, IN 47850

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