

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Charles Nichols and I live in a small, once thriving, coal mining town in Western Kentucky. I spent 27 years in underground coal mines from 1955-1982 providing a living and health care benefits for my wife and three children.

This was provided, as you may already know and if not allow me to provide a brief summary, through a commitment made in 1946. Employers agreed to provide a health care fund for union workers, their dependents and survivors. The produce of the federal government and coal companies negotiations was the Krug Lewis agreement, which created a welfare and retirement fund to aid miners, their dependents and survivors. In 1946 the Coal Commission was formed which found that coal companies should honor their commitments. From those findings, the Coal Act became law in 1992.

On September 7th 2012, John D. Rockefeller IV, wrote a letter to the chairman and CEO of Patriot Coal. The senator has been a strong advocate for coal miners. His letter urged the company to "uphold the commitments that were made relating to pension, healthcare, and other benefits for employees and retirees. Any efforts to strip these individuals of their earned benefits through the bankruptcy process would be severely unjust".

The United Mine Workers of America organization is now our voice to insure employers and coal companies continue their commitments made to workers in 1946.

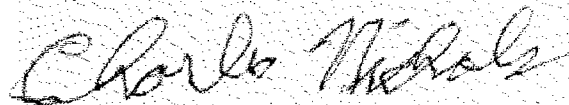
In the past, I have survived two open heart bypass surgeries and had three stents placed in my heart. I have been diagnosed with Black Lung and COPD. Since March of 2012 I have been on oxygen approximately 80% of the time. My wife survived a brain bleed in May of 2008 and is still under medical care for high blood pressure as well as other medical problems. As you can see, we would not

be able to financially survive the ongoing cost of medical care necessary for both of us if our health benefits are cut or eliminated. We both require many medications as well. With our current health conditions, we will not be able to afford health coverage on our own if we can even obtain it. I have checked with several insurance agencies and they say they would not even write a policy for us. Our Social Security benefits would not cover the cost of premiums.

Please consider the very serious consequences Patriot's bankruptcy will have on retirees and their families. I never worked a day for Patriot Coal Company. I only worked for Peabody Coal Company. If Peabody/Patriot companies are allowed to swindle retirees out of their health care benefits and pensions which were promised to them, this would be a grave travesty of justice. Many times, coal miners took lower salaries in lieu of the promise of their health care benefits and pensions for life. I know that I along with all the other retirees planned their life on this promise made by the coal companies. Please do not allow them to renege on their commitments.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Nichols

407 Hamby Avenue

Dawson Springs KY 42408

270-797-4731

Email: knichols@bellsouth.net

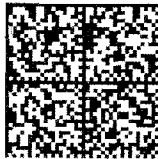
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

Charles Nichols
407 Hamby Ave.
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
RE: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th St., 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102



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