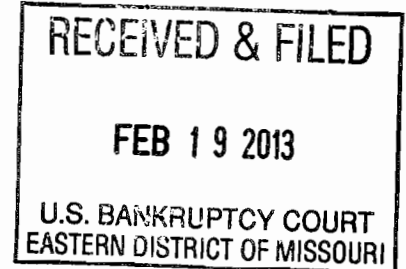


Samuel R. Perdue
2271 Fields Creek Road
Winifrede, WV 25214

February 15, 1913

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 Honorable Judge Kathy Surratt-States,

I am writing again to ask for your help in resolving this bankruptcy case concerning the earned benefits of myself, my wife of 45 years, and my brothers and sisters of the United Mine Workers. My concern, once again, is my health benefits. Yesterday, in our local news paper was an article concerning Patriot's request to pay corporate executives more than \$6 million dollars in bonuses. Your Honor, this so appalling to me knowing that this money is reward money to many of these executives for conspiring this scheme to cheat and destroy both myself and the many men and women who helped make *PEABODY COAL* the wealthy coal operators that they are. Recently, I wrote to you and I think I described the type of under ground coal managers, in my opinion they are. This just father illustrates what I was trying to convey to you.

Most of these very executives that *PATRIOT* want to reward are the very ones that got this corporation into Bankruptcy! This does not make since. As an Army veteran I can not remember any training that suggested that America should kill all the troops then decorate the officers.....I am totally bewildered, your honor. Why does Corporate America Hate The American Worker? You should see for yourself how coal company's have Raped and Pillaged the mountain's of this beautiful state of West Virginia, my home place, yet we don't hate them .We don't want to see them destroyed. I worked for for *Peabody Coal Company* as far back as 1976 and most of the names I read about today concerning this phoney company called *Patriot*, were working for *Peabody Coal* when I was still an active underground coal miner.

Please, be careful dealing with this very corrupt coal company. I still pray daily for you as Judge while you preside over this case in your court. I, also pray that some how America will not turn it's back on us Coal Miners. May the very wisdom of GOD over shadow you and bless you with His guidance.

Sincerely,
Sam Perdue

Patriot asks for bonuses; UMW protests

By Ken Ward Jr.
Staff writer

Bankrupt Patriot Coal this week sought court approval to distribute more than \$6 million in bonuses to corporate executives and salaried employees, a move that was quickly condemned by the United Mine Workers union.

In a court filing, Patriot lawyers said the payments to about 225 workers — part of the company's normal employee retention and incentive programs — are needed to keep Patriot from losing key salaried officials until it emerges from bankruptcy.

UMW President Cecil Roberts called the bonus pay proposal "a finger in the eye" to thousands of union miners and pensioners at risk of losing health-care benefits as part of Patriot's financial reorganization.

"While Patriot is handing out cash to managers and executives, thousands of re-

tirees and widows the company is responsible for are worried about having to choose between buying groceries or getting the prescription drugs they need to live," Roberts said.

Janine Orf, a spokeswoman for Patriot, said the company's salaried employees "have incurred substantial reductions in compensation and benefits" since the bankruptcy filing. Patriot's top executives and management team are not among those who would benefit from the proposed bonuses, Orf said.

"Even with these plans, participating employees' compensation opportunities will be well below their [pre-bankruptcy] historical compensation as well as market levels," Orf said. "Given the magnitude of the tasks ahead, Patriot cannot afford to lose these key employees."

SEE PATRIOT, 6C

6C

The Charleston Gazette, Thursday, February 14, 2013

PATRIOT

FROM PAGE 1C

Word of Patriot's proposal came in a Tuesday court filing, on the eve of another major UMW protest outside the St. Louis headquarters of Peabody Energy, one of the companies union leaders say formed Patriot Coal only to shed retiree pension and health-care liabilities.

About 1,000 people from several states participated in the latest protest, and 10 of them were arrested after they sat down in the street in front of Peabody's office building and refused to move, The Associated Press reported. On Jan. 29, Roberts and nine others were arrested at the same location. Union leaders have promised to keep coming back for more such events.

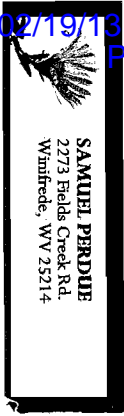
Patriot's bankruptcy has jeopardized the pension and health-care benefits for about 10,000 retirees and another 10,000 dependents. About half of the retirees live in the Illinois coal basin in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. Another nearly 40 percent live in West Virginia, ac-

ording to court records. Last July, Patriot filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, seeking to reorganize amid what company called "unsustainable" labor-related legacy liabilities that include pension and health care payments and strip-mining reclamation costs.

UMW officials say Patriot is essentially a "company created to fail," to give Peabody Energy and Arch Coal a way to shed obligations to fund union pensions and health-care benefits the nation's eastern coalfields while profiting from their giant nonunion surface mines in the west.

Peabody formed Patriot as a spin-off company when Peabody tucked union mine operations in West Virginia and the Midwest along with pension and health-care obligations for union retirees. Patriot later bought other company, Magnum Coal, which had been similarly spun off by Arch Coal when it got rid of most of its Appalachian operations and their related pension and health-care liabilities.

Reach Ken Ward
kward@wvgazette.com
or 304-348-



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

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States

Re: Case No. 12-51502

Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor

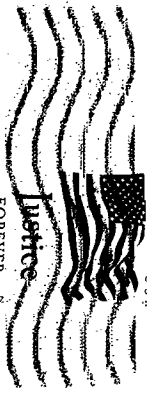
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