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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

SUPPORT STATEMENT

Fairness at Patriot Coal

As an elected official, I am committed to making our community a better place to live and work for our citizens. I was disturbed to hear about the Patriot Coal Chapter 11 bankruptcy and the implications it would have on active workers, retirees and widows who are receiving health care and what the potential effects would be to the economic health of coalfield communities.

The promise of retiree health care was negotiated with the coal operators and the United Mine Workers of America in recognition of the demanding physical toll that coal mining takes on miners' health. The dangers associated with coal mining and the working environment miners work in has a much higher than normal rate of crippling injuries and illnesses. The gains that were made over the last sixty years for working miners as a result of collective bargaining are now being threatened by Patriot Coal. Patriot Coal is seeking to strip away these gains through the bankruptcy proceedings and it is morally wrong to do so to these workers who gave their sweat and blood to this company.

Thousands of miners who have retired from the mining industry are now afflicted with these illnesses and injuries, including black lung, silicosis, cancers, and crippling injuries that prevent them from enjoying their golden years. Yet Patriot Coal and its predecessors Peabody and Arch Coal appear willing to abdicate responsibility for their contractual promises as these brave miners and their spouses suffer and die from their work-related illnesses and injuries without their promised health care benefits. Therefore:

- I support the United Mine Workers of America in their efforts against Peabody, Arch and Patriot Coal's actions that would jeopardize coal miners' health care and retirement security.
- I call on Peabody, Arch and Patriot Coal to keep the contractually-promised lifetime health care benefits that they made with their employees of the United Mine Workers of America on behalf of their unionized miners.

Name (print): BONNIE WOLFE
Signed: Bonnie Wolfe
Office Held: City Official - Uniontown, Ky
Date: 2-25-13



Bonnie Wolfe
Case 12-51502
P.O. Box 817
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Doc 3049 Filed 02/27/13 Entered 03/05/13 14:51:03
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2013 FEB 27 AM 10:34

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

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

