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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

March 18, 2013

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 Kathy A. Surratt-States:

As an employee of Patriot Coal, I would like to compare a personal experience with Patriot Coal's bankruptcy.

Say I decide to do a renovation on my home. First, I would get an estimate from a contractor. With that cost estimate, I would look at my finances to see if I could afford this renovation. Let's say it would be paid out in five installments over five months. I would not decide to sign this contract if I could only afford the first two installments and then file bankruptcy and ask the contractor to finish the job, but for what I would be willing to pay.

I don't think you would do business like this either. However, some very high salary executives have done just that to their employees.

I made a decision when I was very young to work as a coal miner. With 20 years, I was promised health insurance for my wife and myself for the rest of our lives. That was one reason I chose this type of work. I have worked with many people that have been disabled and killed over the years and knew this was dangerous work then, but thought it was worth the risk. Now, I would have chosen something different. I have invested my whole life for the promises made to me when I was young. Now I am retirement age, so how do I get a retirement fund now?

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Sincerely,

Keith Ebersohl

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

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Re: Case No. 12-51502 The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse 111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor

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St. Louis, MO 63102