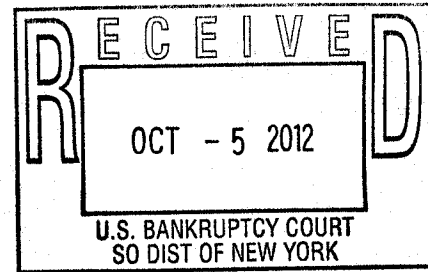


William E. Simpson
508 Broadway St.
Centertown, KY 42328

October 2, 2012

The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman
One Bowling Green
Courtroom 621
New York, New York 10004-1408



Dear Judge Chapman,

I am writing this letter about the bankruptcy filing of Patriot Coal Company. As a UMWA member and worker for Patriot Coal Company, we were promised upon our retirement a health care card for ourselves and our families. We now fear that these promises may no longer be a factor in the future of the workers of this company.


I started to work for the Peabody Coal Co. before there was a Patriot Coal. I worked from February 1974 until January 2011. All workers endured conditions of long hours, forced overtime, and a six day workweek.

We were expected to work in low coal, bad top, and dusty conditions. We did our part to make Peabody Coal a rich and viable company. Now this same company wants to file bankruptcy on this satellite company and take away everything that was due to their workers.

I am enclosing some of my medical records and a list of the prescription medicines that I need for my health. If Peabody is allowed to continue with this bankruptcy, it will cause a severe hardship on my family and on many others in similar situations.

It is my desire to see in this court action that the benefits that were agreed upon by the company as well as UMWA members are upheld. This is the right and fair thing for the workers who helped make Peabody Coal and their satellite companies very profitable and the number one coal company in the world.

Thank you,


William E. Simpson