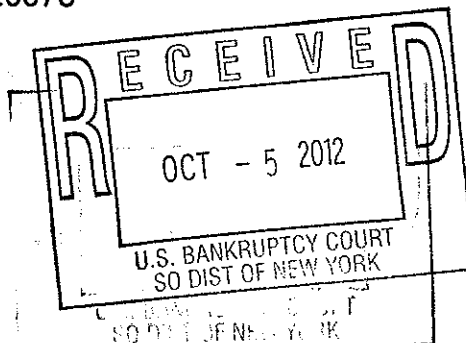


Wallace E. Paul
410 Burr Road
Mount Lookout, WV 26678

October 1, 2012



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

Dear Judge Chapman:

I am a retired coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America. It is with much concern that I write to you regarding the pending Patriot Coal Bankruptcy case.

In April 2012, I was stricken with Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Within six days I was in NSICU on a breathing tube, could not move my arms or legs, could not swallow, and was in unbearable pain. I remained in the NSICU for 15 days, after which time I was transferred to the Med Rehab unit of the hospital for seven weeks of therapy. My hospital bills were enormous, but thanks to the UMWA insurance, all have been paid to this point. I still have residual medical issues resulting from GBS, and they will likely continue for a year or more.

Patriot Coal made a commitment to their retiring workers to provide health insurance to those who worked long, hard years for them in less than favorable conditions. My wife and I depend on that commitment for our health insurance. We would be devastated to lose our health coverage.

Please give your favorable consideration to these many hard working coal miners who have given the best years of their life to Patriot Coal, and who have placed their trust in Patriot Coal to honor their promise to provide health insurance.

Respectfully yours,

Wallace E. Paul

Wallace E. Paul