

October 1, 2012



The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman

One Bowling Green

Courtroom 621

New York, New York 10004-1408

Dear Honorable Chapman,

My name is Leon Smith; I live at 2061 Squire Rd., Nortonville, KY. This is located in South Western Kentucky. I worked 32 ½ years in a coal mines, 20 years underground and 12 ½ years in a surface mines before Peabody Coal retired me, due to my lungs trying to shut down. In the recovery of coal Peabody in the later part of that mining, switch the method of explosion that they were using to an ammonia gel blasting material. The blasting occurred at the close of the dayshift and I worked the evening shift. My push tractor was usually the first tractor on the blast site. I breathed in the ammonia gel fumes no less than eight hours and most always 12 hours that I stayed on the work site. My lungs tried to shut down and they would not let me return to work unless I was a 100% and physically able to pass my physical. My doctor advised me that I would die if I went back to work. I need my insurance and the small amount of money that I draw as a pension in order to keep my medication because I would be unable to afford my medication for my condition. I have to go back to the doctor on occasion if the summers are too hot I have difficulty breathing and if the winters are too cold I have trouble breathing. And there are days I think they are trying to shut down due to their condition. Since my retirement I have had bypass heart surgery that required five graphs and five TIA's that I take medication for. My retirement and

insurance is under the coal act. Peabody transferred my pension and insurance to Patriot Coal in whom I have never worked a day for. I feel that this is very unfair to me. My insurance and pension were the reason that I didn't stay with a salary job. Because I felt that my insurance and my pension was more important to me and my family. And now they are trying to take this all away and I feel that it is very unfair to me because I would be unable to buy my medicine that I need and my hospital care that could come at a later date.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leon Smith".

Leon Smith

2061 Squire Rd.

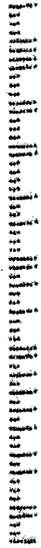
Nortonville, KY 42442

Mr. Leon W. Smith
2001 Square Rd
Nortonville, KY 42424-2911

USMA
SPDK

Responsible Shelley
One Bowling Green
Courtroom 621
New York, New York

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