

# **EXHIBIT 88**

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November 8, 2012

**VIA E-MAIL**

Damian S. Schaible  
Davis Polk & Wardwell  
450 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Re: In re Patriot Coal Company, et al., Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 12-12900 (SCC)

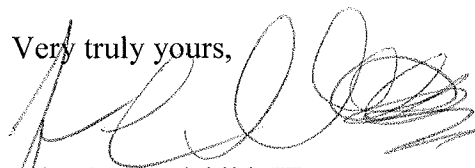
Dear Damian:

We write on behalf of the UMWA 1974 Pension Trust, the UMWA 1993 Benefit Plan, the UMWA 1992 Benefit Plan, and the UMWA Combined Benefit Fund (collectively, the "UMWA Funds"), following the entry of the Stipulated Protective Order Under 11 U.S.C. §§ 1113(d)(3) and 1114(k)(3) [Docket No. 1040] between the Debtors and the United Mine Workers of America (the "UMWA").

One or more of the UMWA Funds may participate in the negotiations or preparation for court proceedings under Sections 1113 and/or 1114. The determination of which UMWA Funds will be included in those negotiations or preparation will depend on the nature of the Debtors' business plan, which we understand will be delivered to the UMWA shortly. In that regard, please send us at your earliest convenience a form of Stipulated Protective Order that we can review with the UMWA Funds.

We look forward to receiving a form of Stipulated Protective Order.

Very truly yours,



John C. Goodchild, III

JCG/mlp  
c: Paul A. Green, Esq.