

October 9, 2012

The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman,

I am writing this letter in response to Patriot Coal Company filing for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy and their intentions to cancel health insurance benefits and pensions.

I have given my life to the coal fields. I turned 18 years old on a Friday and started work on Monday. I worked for 34 years before retiring. You could count on both hands the days I missed work in all those years. I was a very healthy human being until a few years ago when I was diagnosed with Stage IV tonsil cancer that had spread to my lymph nodes. I have battled cancer for the last few years, but at the present time doing well.

To terminate my health insurance would be devastating. Then to take away my retirement is a double whammy.

From what I have been able to understand, Patriot Coal has purposely put all its liabilities into one company setting it up for failure while its other subsidiaries are prospering.

Please give great consideration when making decisions that will affect me, my family and thousands of other coal miners and their families.

Thank you in advance for listening.

Sincerely,
John W. Tennant
Retired Patriot Coal Miner