

972 McKinley Street
Wharton, WV 25208
October 2, 2012

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

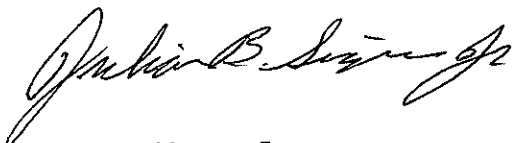
Dear Judge Chapman,

My name is Julian Braxton Sigmon Jr., and I was born on April 12, 1925. I worked for Peabody Coal Company for forty-five years of my life. I have nine children, four daughters in law, one son in law, twelve grandkids (six with spouses), and thirteen great grandkids. Two of my sons (also retired coal miners) and two of my daughters live near me in rural West Virginia, in the same community where I raised my family. Coal mining is all I have known in my life and it provided for me and my family-until now.

As an eighty seven year old man, it is scary to think that I could lose my health care, which was part of my retirement from Peabody (Patriot) Coal. I don't know how I could begin to pay for the doctor visits and illnesses that come with age. Due to a childhood injury, I had to have a hip replacement that still causes health concerns. I have recently suffered from a heart attack, and I had to have triple by-pass surgery. I need to have a knee replacement but am afraid that I will lose my health care and will not be able to afford this much needed surgery. I also have high blood pressure and high cholesterol and take blood thinners for my heart. I take many medications every day to maintain my quality of life, and I will continue to need these medications for as long as I live.

If I were to lose my health benefits, there is no way I could afford to pay for doctor visits, needed surgeries, and prescription medications. Without these things, I would most surely not live. So, as you make your decision on this case, I am asking that you please consider my family and the many other coal mining families that will be affected. We should not have to suffer because of unfulfilled promises and broken contracts.

Thank you for your consideration,



Julian B. Sigmon Jr.