



October 15, 2012

P.O. Box 513
Lake, WV 25121

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

Your Honor:

I am a fifty-five year old employee of Patriot Coal with over thirty years in the United Mine Workers of America, twenty three of them with the same company, which now is named Patriot.

May I please take a moment of your time to express how devastating losing my pension and medical benefits would be to me and my family. I have been experiencing several health problems in the past few years, such as thyroid, cholesterol, intestinal and heart conditions. I also have back and knee problems, which require treatment. I have been diagnosed with black lung in the past and fear what medical treatment I may need in the future. My wife of thirty-two years is fifty years old and has numerous health problems and has been unable to work for almost three years. We have two children that would also be affected. Our twenty-one year old daughter just graduated from college and has been employed as a waitress since high school. She is on my insurance and will need to be until she is able to find a better job with benefits. Our twenty-seven year old son is also employed with Patriot Coal and is a UMWA member and depends on his insurance. My almost eighty-seven year old Mother-in-law, also a UMWA beneficiary, lives with us. She has alzheimers, has been bed fast for over three years and was even under Hospice care at one point.

Your Honor, I have worked my whole life counting on when I reached this age I would be assured of my UMWA pension and healthcare benefits. I cannot begin to tell you what it would do to our family if I were to lose them. There would be no way possible for us to make it financially. Even if we could find health insurance through another company, they would either deny us do to our medical history and/or we could not afford the premiums. I respectfully request when you make your ruling you take our situation into consideration, as well as how unfair it is that people like myself have worked all of their lives expecting what they have been promised and the company does everything in its power to get out of their responsibilities. Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Meade Sr.
Kenneth R. Meade, Sr.