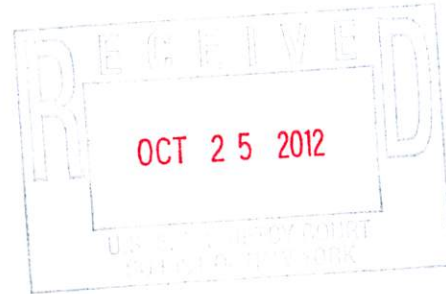


Freddie G. Kinkade
360 Northwest 9th Street
Linton, IN 47441

October 21, 2012

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



Dear Judge Chapman,

I am writing to you in concern of the upcoming court case presented by Patriot Coal Corporation. The company has filed for bankruptcy, which will then lead to retired coal miners losing their medical insurance.

For the past thirteen years, I have been a retired coal miner. In November 1999, I retired from Peabody Coal Company before it was closed. Since then, I have had a series of health problems and procedures that have fortunately been covered by my health insurance. Some of these include congestive heart failure, cardiac arrhythmia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and hip replacement surgery. My COPD is a result of the many years I spent working at the mine inhaling coal dust and debris.

I feel that I had a strong work ethic giving one hundred percent every day over the course of the thirty-two years that I was employed by Peabody. During this time, a portion of each hour worked was paid into my insurance for retirement. As a retiree, I should be able to enjoy this time that I have after many years of hard work and dedication. Now, I have stress and worries that my medical conditions that were caused from several years of hard and intensive work will not be covered if my insurance is taken. If I lose my insurance, my wife and I will not be able to afford new insurance or be able to pay for our medical needs.

Please consider my situation and that of many hardworking miners of America as you proceed with this case. Thank you in advance for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Freddie G. Kinkade
Retired Mine Worker of America

FK/jm