

October 25, 2012

To the Honorable Shelley C. Chapman,

I am writing today not sure if my letter is too late or even if it will matter or make a difference. What I am about to write is just my story

As far back as I can remember my dream was the same and it did not change even when I saw the dreams of others and their plans of becoming famous with big careers of their own. Mine remained the same and it was to be a wife and mother and to find a wonderful man who would give me the life I had dreamed of. A man that would devote his life to loving me and be my life-long mate and the father of my future children and God blessed me and I was privileged to be married to my mate, the father of our two girls and the love of my life for 35 wonderful years.

My husband was diagnosed with lung cancer one week before Thanksgiving in 2008, having never smoked or uses alcohol and took good care of himself all his life. George was a miner and worked 25 years as a miner. George began treatment in 2008 for his terminal cancer in which he lost his courageous battle this day, two years ago, on October 25 in 2010.

During his two year battle George was dedicated to be sure everything was in place for me. He made sure I would get his small pension and medical card in which I depend on greatly. These are my only source of benefits. Even though George felt sure his lung cancer came from being a miner for so long and I would be eligible for his black lung benefits in which he was not physical able to apply for or go through the required test. I did however apply and try to get widows benefits but when the autopsy came back and said I was not eligible to receive the black lung benefits but that the outcome may had been different if George had applied before his death , I came to terms and even though I did not agree I tried to accepted this ruling.

As you see if I lose my medical card and pension it would be divesting to me and I will not be able to purchase insurance on my own. I am 58 years old and going back to school is not an option for me at my age.

I know that Patiriot Coal will be filing bankruptcy no matter where the hearings are held. I am asking that my request, as well of the hundreds of other who's lives will be altered by this decision, that the hearing be held here in West Virginia. I feel the judges here would be more understanding of the miners and their families.

I'll end with this; my husband's peace of mind before he breathed his last breath was knowing that he had done everything to insure my well being. So in honor of his memory I am writing this letter. This is my story and yet I know I share a similar story with each family this is affecting.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Jane Wolfe and proud wife of the late

George Lawrence Wolfe II

December 22, 1954-October 25, 2010

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