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1212 Raymond Drive
Red Bud, IL 62278

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

2013 JAN 15 AM 10:35

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January 14, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

Honorable Judge Surratt-States:

I am writing to you for any and all the help that you as the presiding Judge in St. Louis can do for me and rule in the favor of the UMWA. I am a 76 year-old male. I have 22½ years of service with Peabody Coal at River King Pit #6 at Marissa, IL.

I have had four back injuries while being employed at Peabody Coal (NOT Patriot Coal) and have had four back surgeries to correct my injuries. After the last surgery I was put on full disability. I have not worked one day for Patriot Coal.

If Patriot Coal is allowed this bankruptcy ruling and all retired miners are left out in the cold for their health benefits, it will have a tremendous effect on my life and my wife's.

Health wise, I have had two Pacemakers and am scheduled to have a third one possibly as soon as Spring, 2013. My wife had a recent heart attack and is need of heart medications and doctor support. My list of medication includes Ranitidine Tabs (150 mg) 1 daily, Metopolo ER Tabs Suc (25 mg) 1 daily, Crestor (20 mg) 1 daily, Zetia (10 mg) 1 daily, Amiodarone (200 mg) 1 daily, Pradaxa (150 mg) 2 daily, Avodart (.5 mg) 1 daily, Tamsulosin (.4 mg) 1 daily. My wife's list of medication includes Lisinopril (5mg) 1 daily, Crestor (10 mg) 1 daily, Pantoprozole (40 mg) 1 daily, Plavix (75 mg) 1 daily, Metroprolo ER Suc (25 mg) 1 daily, Nitrostat SL (.4 mg) 1 if needed.

This is just for 2013. As I am 76 and my wife is 73, the future will be very dim if Peabody Coal and Patriot Coat are allowed to get by with this bankruptcy to get rid of our retired benefits which were secured with the 1973 Coal Act.

Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,



Merlin L. Kueker

Retired Peabody Coal Miner

Merlin Kueker
1212 Raymond Drive
Red Bud, IL 62278

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EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, MO

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