January 15, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt – States Re: Case # 12-51502
Thomas F.Eagleton US Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Franklin Von Burchfield, I was originally hired in April 1975 with US Steel Mines in Lynch, Kentucky. I pinned top, worked on track, hauled supplies and the last job I had with Arch Coal was pump repairman.

Carrying a pump for a mile at a time during the cold winter months to keep production going, 2-3 miles deep in the mines was at times, unbearable but, I completed my tasks knowing that my pension and insurance was being secured for my retirement years. This "already earned" security has been threatened to be eliminated.

I worked for 21 years and retired when Arch Coal Company shut down the mines. I was told by the union, which was negotiated with Arch of Kentucky, that my insurance and pension were from the "cradle to the grave."

I am in 3rd stage renal failure with IGA nephritis. My wife is a diabetic and has advanced Parkinson's Disease. The loss of benefits would be devastating to our well being. In fact, the worry about losing my benefits has resulted in additional medication for my increasing blood pressure. This in turn, causes my kidney disease to progress which will eventually result in dialysis.

Please consider the devastation on such a hardworking group of people who are potentially losing their life line and security. We need our pensions and insurance to be able to keep our modest homes and pay for our medications.

Please do not allow Arch, Patriot and Peabody Coal Companies to dismiss our claims to our secure futures. We worked honorably for them and it is not too demanding to ask them to reciprocate their agreement with us.

I am earnestly praying for your fair judgment in forcing these companies to honor their contract with us.

Thank you in advance for your fairness,

Franklin Von Burchfield Franklin V. Burchfield

International Union, C/O Patriot Campaigne



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