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January 18, 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse 111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor St. Louis, MO 63102

RE:

Case No. 12-51502

Dear Honorable Surratt-States:

I am writing to you regarding the Patriot Coal Bankruptcy matter which has recently been placed in your Bankruptcy Court.

My step-dad and step-brother worked at the Squaw Creek Peabody Coal Mine in Lynnville, IN for many years before their deaths in 1984 and 1988. The coal mines were their livelihood and they worked hard knowing that the unions afforded them the best health care coverage for them and their families. I know times were different back in the 1980s. The unions were strong and supported each other. The miners were made a promise by Peabody that they would secure their benefits.

My mother is a retiree's widow. She is almost 91 years old and is in pretty good health. She still lives at home with me. Last summer she suffered a stroke which affected her right hand, but she did physical and occupational therapy and has overcome a lot. She has diabetes and high blood pressure, but other than that she is very lucky. My mother depends on her health benefits and worries that they will be taken away.

Please, when making a decision concerning the healthcare benefits remember all the families that depend on these benefits.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Connie J. Taylor

cc: UMWA International Union

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The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States

St. Louis, MO 63102 RE: Case No. 12-51502

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