January 19, 2013

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To Whom It May Concern:

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

I am a retired, disabled union coal member. I worked as a union coal miner most of my life. For 28 years I worked a strip mine operation at anything the company needed, truck driving, ground man, Dozier operator, welder and more. Some work was done in a three foot square with little ventilation but I gave the company a full day's work for my pay and benefits.

The work messed up my lungs. I have early stage black lung: nothing serious enough at this time to have qualified for assistance but still enough to make breathing difficult and send me to a lung doctor for special inhalers and such. The year 2004 a tumor was found growing in the nerves at the base of my spine. Extensive surgery removed the tumor but not without nerve damage. A morphine pump was implanted to help alleviate the resulting pain so I could at least walk. This pump is refilled every 2 - 3 months at a cost of \$1600 per refill. I have diabetes and a heart doctor that is running test to determine what type of heart problems I have developed.

I am 64 years old. I want to work but can not; not even the simple chores around my own home. Without my pump or my lung medicines how will I get by? How will I pay for them without insurance? How will I buy insurance without my pension?

When the mines were I was an employee shut down they told those of us with excessive time in the company that if we took retirement we would have our pension and medical for life. I took their offer. I thought a contract was an abiding agreement you were suppose to keep and abide by. The union has always had a contract with the coal companies.

I served my time in the military, worked hard, did not live above my means but simply provided for my family. I keep my bills paid and a roof over our head. Without insurance or my pension how am I suppose to continue?

My wife can only work part time because of her responsibility to see after me. Part time workers doe not get insurance or retirement benefits from their employers. What will she do? She will have no insurance at all. She will be at the mercy of the government charities. How can a company with so many tax loopholes that allow them to hide true profits declare they are no longer responsible to the very men and women who gave their lives to build that company?

If the courts and government do not defend the people of this country from companies that just decide to quit, how will we survive? Will we become a nation of poverty because we no longer pull together for the common good? Instead we close our eyes to the needs of the people and only "help" the "company". Will a government struggling find itself with a nation of homeless looking to them for food and medical care?

The answers can not come easy but to totally turn your back on the very people that created you is the most devastating action that can possibly taken.

We are a nation of people that made the company. Will you allow the company to now destroy the people?

Respectfully,
Lewy Aswer

Lewis Devine 5840 Hutton Ridge Road Maryville, TN 37801 K

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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI-MR Joyce Devine 5840 Hutton Ridge Rd. Maryville, TN 37801

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The Honoralle Kathy A Survests-States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F Eagleton US Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St Louis MO

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