January 21, 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

Dear Judge,

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**JAN 2 4 2013** 

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

I began my coal mining career with Peabody Coal Company on September 16, 1974 in Indiana. Worked at different Peabody Coal mines until December 12, 1999. I had a total of 19 ¼ years of time toward my pension and health care, the rest of the time during that period I was laid off.

Over the years at contract time we bargained with the coal companies for better health care and pensions rather than higher wages. We knew in the long term that our health care and pensions was the most important part of our contracts. We knew the conditions we worked in were dangerous to our health, from the use of asbestos products to shield us from heat as welders, the oils and grease as mechanics, to the silica dusts as equipment operators.

At the end of 1999 I was too young to retire and did not have enough time in to get my health care. The mines in Indiana had all closed. In 2007 I began looking for another Peabody operation to work in because I had to be working at a signatory coal operation when I turned 55 years old to qualify for my healthcare.

I found an operation in West Virginia, Eastern Associated Coal Company, Rocklick Preparation Plant owed by Peabody Coal Company as a Dozer Operator. I passed my physical and equipment operators test. I moved to West Virginia and went to work. While working there I turned 55 years old and retired January 4, 2008 with my healthcare and pension benefits for my family.

At that time it had taken me a period of 34 years to get 20 years of working time in towards my pension and healthcare. Now I am 60 years old, at an age I will need the healthcare more. I have fulfilled my contractual obligations to Peabody Coal Company. Now it is time for Peabody Coal Company to fulfill their obligations to us, the miners of the coal.

Sincerely yours,

William R Travis, Local 1410 UMWA

Elaine R. Travis, Wife

8158 S Co Rd 50 West

Clay City, Indiana 47841

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CLERK. US BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT ST. LOUIS. MISSOURI-MR

8158 S County Road 50 W Mr & Mrs William Travis Clay City, IN 47841-8306

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The Abonorable Kathy Q. Surrett-States
Thomas I. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 164 Street 44 Stoor It Jours, 190 63/02

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