



January 22, 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 Surratt-States:

I am 90 years old and retired from Peabody Coal Company in January, 1985.

After working 39 years for Peabody Coal, I received a small pension and the guarantee of lifetime benefits. I accepted a small pension because of the Peabody's promise of lifetime benefits, which, to me, was more important than a large pension. After 28 years of retirement my monthly pension is \$738. My current benefits allow my wife and me to make ends meet.

I am sure at the time Peabody thought they were making a smart financial decision. Since then healthcare costs have skyrocketed. Now Peabody/Patriot wants to continue to pay small pensions and also rid themselves of their healthcare benefit obligations. Peabody/Patriot Coal should be forced to honor their promises to their employees and retirees.

Sincerely,

*Costello Thorpe*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Costello Thorpe".

Costello Thorpe  
United Mine Worker, Retired

CT: lc

Costello Thorpe  
7 Westwood Place  
Moberly, MO 65270

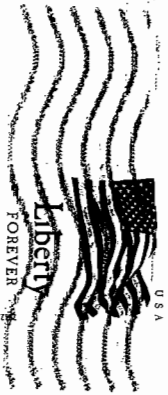
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EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

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