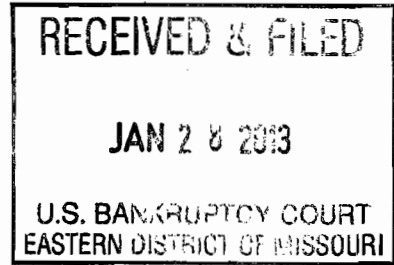


The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States  
RE: Case # 12-51502

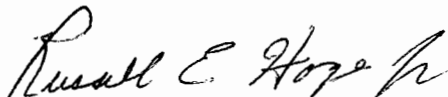
Your Honor:



I worked for Peabody Coal Co. I had over 29 years in the Mines. I worked in the Mines because of the benefits that I received and was to receive for life. I had a couple of opportunities to leave the mines but I stayed for the benefits. First I'd like to say that I never worked for or did I ever step foot on Patriot property. When I first heard the news that Peabody had formed Patriot Coal I told my wife that I believed that they did that to Bankrupt Patriot and get rid of all there obligations to the retirees. And I was not shocked when I heard of the Bankruptcy. At the time of the forming of Patriot I called my District which is 17 And the international (UMWA) and my congressman and told them what I believed was going on. I was retired from Peabody with a Peabody health care card along with my wife. And all of a sudden I get a Patriot card, a company I never worked for. When I retired Peabody was by contract responsible for my health care not Patriot. As I stated I retired from Peabody, not Patriot. That being said I'd like to tell you about my health Concerns.

I have diabetes which requires 4 shots a day. I have had three heart procedures. I have heart problems. I have had quadruple heart by-pass, another surgery for a stint, and a heart ablation. I have also had to have a lung transplant which is the most troubling concern I have. The transplant was due to coal dust. As of right now I take 31 medications a day. The transplant medications some are covered under black lung, but some are not. They don't consider the side effects of rejection medications as part of black lung so my miners insurance pays for them. My medications are very expensive and I have to have a blood test the first Monday of every month for the rest of my life. This blood test is to make sure the rejection medicines are working correctly, if not they have to go up on milligrams or down. And this is not covered under Black lung. The last time I saw a bill the blood test were \$600.00. I have to travel To Charlottesville, Va. Every 3 months which cost in travel and doctor bills. This is to see the lung doctors and also to see a kidney doctor to make sure the medications aren't damaging my kidneys. I also have to see a bone doctor because the rejection medications take out calcium in your bones. I usually have to have an IV to protect my bones. I do not know the cost of the IV but I have been told it is expensive. I have to see a heart doctor regularly for my heart condition. I have to keep appointments to monitor my diabetes and the problems associated with it. I have a lot of health problems. Without my health care card I feel that someone will be signing my death certificate. I have a lot of bad days and since this I have been depressed and have a lot of concerns about my health care. Also my wife has health problems also she has back problems, thyroid problems and problems with her nerves having to take care of me. I ask that you please consider the fact that I put many years of hard work into the mines and always was told that our benefits were for life. And Peabody signed a contract that said they were responsible for there retirees health care. I think it is a dirty trick they are playing on us and the courts. They are the largest coal producer in the U.S. and they can easily afford to take care of there retirees. My health care is my life. Peabody should be responsible for the retiree's, they signed the contract. At least I think since myself and others never worked for Patriot and retired from Peabody we should be moved back to Peabody and receive our health insurance from Peabody like we were before. Peabody is a billion dollar company. Patriot may be in debt but it was all planned. They should not have the right to move us to a company they formed and that we never worked for. I believe and will always believe that this was planned in one of their board room meetings. They should not be allowed to form a smaller company on there own with the sole purpose of getting rid of there obligations. It makes me wonder what America is coming to. My life is dependent on my health care and without it I think I am doomed. They might as well be the ones signing my death certificate along with a lot of others. Also no matter what Peabody or Patriot say, Peabody formed this Company with the sole purpose of bankrupting it to get rid of there obligations to us the retirees. Russell E. Hoge Jr.

Thank You:

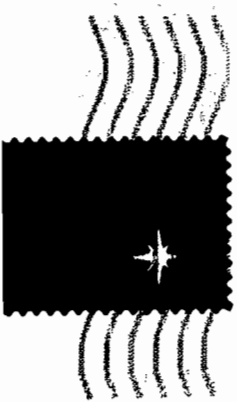


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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT,  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

*The Honorable Kathy A. Swatt-States*

*RE: Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas F. Engleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10th Street 4th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102*

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