Wallace E. Paul 410 Burr Road Mount Lookout, WV 26678

January 24, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States RE: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse

111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor St. Louis, MO 63102

Dear Judge Surratt-States:

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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

I am a retired coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America, with 25 years of service. It is with much concern that I write to you regarding the pending Patriot Coal bankruptcy case.

In April 2012, I was stricken with Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Within six days I was in NSICU on a respirator, could not move my arms or legs, could not swallow and was in unbearable pain. I remained in the NSICU for 15 days, after which time I was transferred to the Med Rehab unit of the hospital for seven weeks of therapy. My hospital bills were enormous, but thanks to our UMWA insurance, all have been paid. I shudder to think about what we would have done if it had not been for that medical insurance.

Patriot Coal made a commitment to their retiring workers to provide health insurance to those who worked long, hard years for them in less than favorable conditions. My wife and I depend on that commitment for our health insurance. We would be devastated to lose our health coverage.

Please give your favorable consideration to these many hard working coal miners who have given the best years of their life to Patriot Coal, and who have placed their trust in Patriot Coal to honor their promise to provide health insurance.

Respectfully yours,

Wallace e. Paul

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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT ST. LOUIS, TOSOUR CATE

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