



January 23, 2013

To the Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States,

I have put off writing this letter as I am hurt over what Peabody and Patriot Coal is trying to do to the men that worked for Peabody and gave of their years and time to help them bring in the coal to sell and make money for Peabody Coal Company. My husband worked for them 30 some years before he retired. He would work eight hours evenings, seven evenings a week and then off one day and back to work for another seven evenings so that we would have a retirement check and medical care with which we could live on. I just lost my husband eleven months ago and now they are trying to take away medical care and the retiree's and widows retirement fund check, which is not much for a widow.

I am 71 years old and on SS and that is all I will have coming in to live on for the rest of my life. I am in good health but I do have to have Inhalers for my lungs but no one want a 70 some year old person working for them, they want the younger ones. I do own my home and car but SS will not pay for Medical Insurance, Car Insurance, House Insurance, Plates for the car, Gas for the car, Utilities for the house, Food on the table, and anything else that comes along. Can you show me one person who can live on a little over one thousand dollars a month and still get to live in their home. NO!!! And pay their bills. NO!!! Have a car and buy gas. NO!!! If I get to eat I cannot buy Medical Insurance, if I buy Medical Insurance than I would not get to eat, that is an example of what is to come if Patriot Coal wins in this case.

Peabody knew when they put us over to Patriot Coal what they were going to do and that was put us out the door and shut it with nothing. They say that they are a great company to work for and will take care of their working man, will I think some people should stand back and look at what they are trying to do in this case. I do believe that they do not care for the working man they are only in this to take care of themselves in the end.

In this area there are a lot of retired UMWA retiree's who gave of themselves to work for a living, feed their family, cloth their family, have a car and or truck and take a vacation when they could afford too. Now some of these men have passed away and have spouses left behind and soon will have nothing to take care of them with except SS. Some of these men are sick at home or in the nursing home and what will become of them with no money to buy other insurance, if they could find someone to pick them up, no money to get medicine with or buy what medicine they can and then starve to death because they cannot afford the food to put on the table.

I was always proud that my husband worked for Peabody but not now. I always thought that Peabody was a great company to work for and would take care of it men but not now. BUT NOT NOW!!!

I fear if Patriot Coal wins this for what is going to become of our nation, when other companies are going to do the same thing to their working man then what is going to become of America.

I am asking you to think about our life's today, how we will live, how we will put food on the table, how we will be able to buy clothes when needed, how to put gas in the car, how to buy medicine, how to buy insurance for when we have to go to the doctor or into the hospital, how we will be able to keep our house and pay utilities, how we can buy insurance on our car and home or anything else that we would want to do but cannot do now. As I said widows do not get much in SS and first of all my tithes comes out of it so then there is less to live on for a month. I have already put off going to the dentist to have my teeth cleaned because that is extra money now since my husband died and I have put off going to the eye doctor to have my eyes checked now since he died because that is extra money that I feel like I cannot afford. I have had little things happen since he died that I have had to take care of and I am glad we had a little money put back so I could pay for that but that will not last long. I just thought I will not have the money to put out to get my hair cut!!!

I pray that while you read some of these letter or all of them you will keep us in mind when the day comes for a decision to be made. Peabody Coal Company should be made to takes us back and support every man that has worked for them, for without these men they (Peabody) would not be where they are today. Look at what those men have today and they want to take away from us and so they can have more. That is the way I look at it.

I do want to thank you for taking the time to read this and I pray you will keep us in your thoughts and prayers while making a decision in this matter. A very important matter to us.

Thank you,

Mrs. Shirley A. Strahla

13408 W 150 N

Linton, Indiana 47441-6617

*God Bless
Shirley Strahla*

Mrs. Shirley A. Strahla
13408 W 150 N
Linton, Indiana 47441



The Honorable Kathy Q. Stewart - State
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Bagleton U.S. Courtroom
111 South 1st Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, Mo. 63102

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