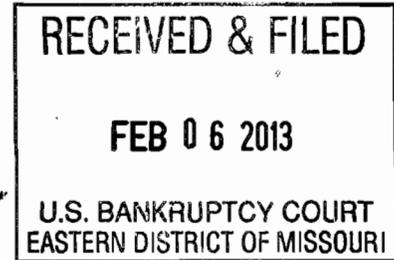


The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102



Honorable Judge Surratt-States,

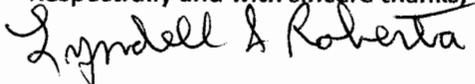
I believe Peabody Coal Company's selling off of their health care and pension obligations to Patriot Coal can be likened to a man divorcing, (or deserting), his wife and children so that he can devote his time and money to making himself richer. Yes, he has the legal right to a divorce, but he retains the legal obligation to support his family. Legal loopholes not withstanding, it is certainly unethical and immoral for them to do otherwise.

It seems to me that Peabody Coal Company, a thriving organization, should be held accountable for their failure to ensure that their contractual obligations to their faithful former employees remain secure. I believe the spirit of the law leans heavily in favor of fairness to us, their former employees.

I worked over twenty-three years for Peabody Coal Company and not one day for Patriot Coal. My late father also worked for Peabody and has left behind a 90 year old Peabody pension widow. She is a colon cancer survivor and requires lifelong maintenance drugs, supplies and healthcare. I myself have been diagnosed as suffering from diabetes and hypertension. Both of these diseases require lifelong treatment. My wife suffers from hormonal imbalance and also requires lifelong maintenance drugs.

We are asking only for fairness and justice in this case. Had we known that Peabody Coal would conspire with Patriot Coal to "divorce" us, we would have looked elsewhere for employment during our productive years. Please keep these factors foremost in your mind as you decide this case. Our wellbeing is now in your hands.

Respectfully and with sincere thanks,



Lyndell R. and Roberta L. Martin
2285 Willow Grove Road
Harrisburg, IL 62946-4660

P.S.

Peabody and Arch promised health care and pension benefits for life to over 90% of the retirees and widows that are currently affected by this bankruptcy case. The efforts of Patriot, Peabody and Arch to shed themselves of their health care and pension obligations to UMWA retirees could have a ripple effect in the future that places the security of all UMWA members and their families at risk.

On a personal note, for many years I drove 180 miles per day to and from Peabody's Marissa Illinois Mine in order to provide income, health care and a pension for my family. For Patriot, Peabody and Arch to abandon us now, in our final year's, is unconscionable! We were promised, we earned, and I believe we have every right to expect, health care and a pension in our final declining years. PLEASE HELP US!
Thank you.



Lyndell Martin
2285 Willow Grove Rd.
Harrisburg, IL 62946

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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MO



THE HONORABLE KATHY A. SIKRATT-STATES

Re: CASE NO. 12-51502

THOMAS F. EAGLETON U.S. COURTHOUSE
111 SOUTH 10TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

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