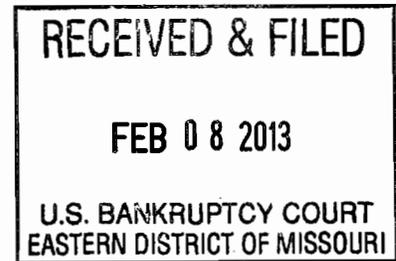


February 5, 2013



The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States

RE: Case No. 12-51502

Thomas F. Eagleton US Courthouse

111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor

St. Louis, MO 63102

Dear Judge Surratt-States:

My name is Jackie Steward and I am a retired coal miner. I started working for Peabody Coal when I was 18 years old and have recently retired after just shy of 40 years of service. I worked my entire life for Peabody Coal and have never had any other job as an adult. I took great pride in my work and gave each shift I worked the best I had to offer. Many days I would go underground before the sun came up and didn't come out until the sun had long gone down. The years during my employ with Peabody took a terrible toll on my body and health, effects which I will have to live with the rest of my life. And while I have chosen to not be tested, statics indicate that I more than likely have black lung disease. I have been hurt and had many close calls mining, but I never asked anything from Peabody other than the salary I earned. Thru it all I have been faithful to my commitment and responsibilities to Peabody.

Now after helping, along with countless other miners, make Peabody a very wealthy company, they want to thru dishonesty and greed, wash their hands of the commitments and promises they made to me and my wife. Both of us require daily medications to treat medical conditions and in addition to that, my wife has recently been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia which will require ongoing medical attention and additional medications. The loss of my health insurance would totally devastate us and there is just no way we could afford our medications let alone medical attention. Our sole income is my pension which in this day and age does not go far. We live a very frugal life and don't require much

to provide us a happy life, but the loss of our medical insurance would leave us struggling to pay our light bill and buy food. We are not old enough to collect Social Security and enroll in Medicare so what we have from my years of service to Peabody is all we have.

Coal Mining is a very hard way of life. And while I am not an educated man, I feel that the contribution coal miner's make to the lifestyle Americans have enjoyed are unrecognized in large. There are not many who would be willing to do the work of a miner, but everyone is more than happy to partake of the benefits coal provides. Many have gotten rich of the efforts of the coal miners, but it has not been the coal miners. And now what was promised to us Peabody wants to take away.

Peabody coal has no right, nor should they be permitted to break the promises they made to the men and women who gave their all to make Peabody Coal the wealthy company that it is today. It is a sad statement of the times we live in that a company can decide to walk away from the commitments and promises they made with workers in good faith, (let alone contracts), because it is more profitable to do so. There is no moral code of ethics to do the right thing or stand by your word. It doesn't matter who is hurt or devastated by greed as long as there is more money in the pockets of those who matter. The ones hurt are the ones who don't matter. It is obvious that people are expendable to Peabody. But if Peabody is allowed to do this horrible, unthinkable act, it will not only devastate the lives of thousands of people, lives will be lost because life saving treatments will be unaffordable and unattainable. I implore your Judge Surratt-States, please do not let Peabody Coal do this to the people who have worked so hard to make them what they are today.

Thank you for your time in reading my plea.

Sincerely,



Jackie Ray Steward

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Marion, KY 42064

270-635-6705

*Jessie Stewart
2061 SR 1901
Mason, Ky 42064*

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

*The Honorable Kathy A. Aument-Stein
RE. Case No 12-51502
Honore J. Eapler US Courtroom
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102*



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