

Patriot Coal vs UMWA

Dear Honorable Kathy A Surratt-States,

I am writing in concern of Case No. 12-51502 which is being heard at the St. Louis Courthouse.

Patriot Coal Corporation, through a supposed bankruptcy, is trying to shed itself of the health care obligations to UMWA retirees, widows, and their dependents. This outcome may be devastating to not only UMWA families but all working men and women of our country.

I, Gary Kuklinski, have worked for Peabody Coal for 24 years. I have NEVER worked for Patriot Coal. This year, Peabody Company, based in St Louis, has had its most profitable year ever. It's a shame that they have manipulated Patriot Coal Company to be responsible for the health care benefits that they, Peabody, promised to the many men and women who got them to where they are today. The legality of this maneuver is not only questionable, but we feel is unconstitutional and ethically wrong.

I, Gary Kuklinski, have 24 years of service and contract negotiations with Peabody Coal. We chose to give up wage increases for the security of future health benefits. If Peabody is permitted to break their promises, I am concerned for the future of my wife and I. Our retirement is at risk as well. I do not have to tell you that Social Security does not adequately provide enough retirement support and its future is unknown as well. We worked in good faith, the money was given to Peabody Coal in good faith, and we expect only to get what we were promised. If all UMWA members are denied this much-needed and earned health service, the American government WILL see an increase in the taxpayer cost to Social Security and Medicare. What does this say about our ways of doing business in America and how we treat fellow citizens? What Peabody has done "may" be legal on paper, but it is disgraceful in reality. If this case is resolved in Peabody/Patriot's favor, I dread the future of all American working men and women.

Please consider standing up for the men and women voters of Illinois and other states that are in the fight for their future.

Sincerely, *Gary Kuklinski*

Gary Kuklinski and wife Laurie Kuklinski

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