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FEB 25 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

The Honorable Judge
Kathy A. Surratt-States

Dear Madam:

My name is Tommy Dickerson
I am a retired coal miner.

At the age of nineteen, just out
of High School, I was looking for a
career to take me through life.

I was employed by a Major Steel
company and after nine months I
was able to get into a four year
welding apprentice program.

After completing my education in
this program, I was hired as a
certified welder by Peabody Coal
company at their River Queen Mine
and worked until retirement for this
company.

During this time my wife and I
raised three daughters and put
them through college and trade schools.

Now we thought we were ready for
our golden years, but after working in
the rain, snow, and all types of
conditions it has taken a toll on
my health.

I had honored my promise to Peabody Company and I believe its fair for them to honor their promise for a Health card for me and my Wife.

Now at the age of sixty nine I am told that a company called Patriot whom I have never worked a day for has been put in charge of my health care.

I am now too old for another career or job. The effort by Patriot to shed itself of the health care obligations to retirees, widows and their dependents would be devastating. In fact it would make it almost impossible just to maintain what I worked for all my working years.

Please help me to protect the UMW health and retirement funds that were promised.

This could be a life and death matter for my family and other families in this community.

In 1946 the President of the United States realized the plight of the Coal Miners and how important Coal Mining was to the economy. On the advice of the President to the head of the Interior Department the 1950 welfare Program was established.

Then years later the 1974 Fund was established but these funds were not guaranteed until President Bush signed into law on October 24-1992 The Industry Retirement Health Act of 1992.

The act mandates guaranteed lifetime health care.

Please read enclosed article:

Sincerely:

Tommy Dickerson
UMWA Local 1178
River Queen Mine
Greenville, Kentucky

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1992 ...

Richmond Times-Dispatch

SECTION C

Miners win guarantee of benefits

Bill signed by Bush restores trusts' stability, places burden of retirees' care on coal firms

BY BILL MCKELWAY
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Tens of thousands of union coal miners, many of them fatally weakened from lung diseases and broken from years of work in the country's most dangerous profession, won a new guarantee of health benefits yesterday after years of congressional wrangling.

The new health benefit package, part of a national energy package signed yesterday by President Bush, will restore financial stability to ailing health benefit trusts and will place long-term responsibility on union coal companies to care for their retirees going back to 1950.

"This represents the single biggest victory

ways depended on; I didn't see how they could ever take it away," said Altizer, a widower with black lung disease.

The new payment provisions use money from healthy union pension funds and from funds used to restore previously mined lands to keep the health funds solvent.

But the most far-reaching provisions kick in requirements making both current and former signatory companies to union contracts responsible for their retirees dating back to 1950.

The provision, according to some coal analysts, will cost one of Virginia's largest coal companies, Pittston Coal Group Cos. Inc., up to \$8 million a year.

Richmond-based A.T. Massey Coal Inc. also is expected to be paying millions in additional costs.

Pittston, which precipitated much of the concern over retiree health care when it terminated health benefits to its retirees in 1988, also will lose key concessions it won from the union when the two settled their 10-

"This represents the single biggest victory for the United Mine Workers in 50 years."

RICHARD TRUMKA
UMWA PRESIDENT

month strike in early 1990.

Union miners had threatened to shut down coal mines across the country earlier this year when the trust funds, close to insolvency, set a date for suspending health benefits.

The collapse was averted when a federal judge in Abingdon ordered union coal companies to increase payments into the trusts.

The retiree health care bill had been sought for more than three years by Sen.

John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., who called the bill the most important legislation of his political career.

The legislation "forces big business to live up to its word," said Ron Carey, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Carey was referring to promises by the unionized coal industry a half-century ago to guarantee health benefits for life to retired miners and their families.

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The Hon. Kathy A. Sumrath - States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Shirley F. Eagleston Courthouse
111 S. 10 St. 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

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

2013 FEB 25 AM 10:43

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