

1985 Hopkinsville Street
Nortonville, KY 42442

Feb 26, 2013

Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 S. 10 St. 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

RECEIVED & FILED
MAR 01 2013
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Re: Case No. 12-51502

Dear Judge,

Thank you for taking time to read my letter. My husband was an employee of Peabody Coal Company. He died two weeks after his 49th birthday from disease most likely caused by his work environment. I have been a widow almost 24 years now.

When he was hired by Peabody we were a young couple starting a family and so excited that our children would have the opportunity for a better future. He worked so hard at that job. Extreme heat in the summer made his skin almost like leather. In the winter he labored in snow and ice after driving in it for an hour or more to get to the mine. After his work shift he still had the long journey home, no matter how bad the travel conditions were.

Yet, he did this proudly because he was supporting our family. He was a God-fearing man, honest and his word was his bond. He believed in doing the best job he could to earn his pay. He also believed what he was told by Peabody that he could depend on them to honor their promises.

Please don't allow those big companies to disregard all the miners, their spouses and children. Please make them keep their promises to these families.

It might mean the difference in some having to become bankrupt and homeless; afford medicine or food; fewer education opportunities for children or grandchildren; total changes in life-style.

One thing I am sure of, if the miners I know lose everything they have worked so hard for, it will totally shatter their lives. Sadly, some of them might be devastated to the point of committing suicide rather than face the consequences of losing everything. Heaven forbid!

The miners' pensions are very meager but the health insurance benefits are desperately needed and both should be preserved and protected.

The trickle-down effect from lost pensions and/or health insurance would practically wipe out some of our smaller communities.

Your Honor, when you consider the issues in this case, I pray that you will realize the impact of your decision. The outcome will affect so many lives. Peabody Coal continues to make big profits. These companies should not be allowed to destroy the lives of the very people who worked to make them so profitable.

Please hear our pleas to allow the miners and survivors to keep what has been promised and what so many have sacrificed so much for. Thank you again for your time and consideration. Please excuse my arthritic handwriting. I do not have a computer or typewriter.

Very truly yours,

Norma A. Ashby
Widow of Neville B. Ashby

Ms. Norma Ashby
198 S. Hopkinsville St.
Nortonville, KY 42442

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*The Honorable Kathy A. Swartz - State
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EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MO

Re: Case No. 12-51502 63102112599

