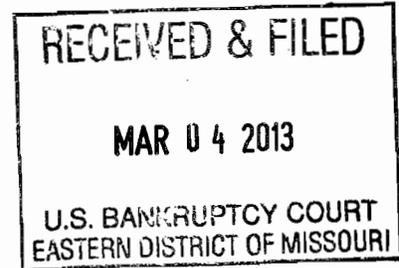


February 27, 2013

Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States
Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, Fourth Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102



IN RE: Case No. 12-51502

Judge Surratt-States:

I am one of thousands of nameless union coal miner retirees. For over thirty years I worked at both surface and underground mines owned and operated by Peabody Coal Company in western Kentucky. Like my former co-workers, I was deeply disturbed several months ago when I learned that Peabody's spin-off company, Patriot, sought to discharge in bankruptcy proceedings its retirement and healthcare obligations to miners.

Like others who toiled under dangerous working conditions in the mines, I suffered crippling injuries, and now endure daily pain as a result. Nevertheless, Patriot (and Peabody) seeks to strip away my health insurance coverage and meager retirement benefits that it promised to us in what we believed to be good faith. I recognize that you yield great power in determining whether Patriot's efforts are permitted under the law. I hope to the extent that you can, you will take into account the IMMORAL nature of this company's actions. Countless active miners, retirees, and widows are depending on your sound judgment.

Thank you for your time.

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

HON. KATHY A. SURRATT-STATES
THOMAS F. EAGLETON U.S. COURTHOUSE
111 SOUTH 10TH STREET, FOURTH FLOOR
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

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