

Very Reverend Stavrofor Dr. Rodney Torbic
296 Old Rt.21 Road
Carmichaels, Pennsylvania 15320
March 6, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 S. 10th Street
4th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri, 63102

Re: Case No.12-51502

Your Honor:

I am writing in support of the United Mine Workers of America's effort to protect the pensions and healthcare benefits of Patriot-Peabody-Arch miners that are in jeopardy. The miners went to work each day, risking their lives and their health. They exposed themselves daily to serious injury.

The miners performed difficult work underground benefitting millions of Americans. Their families lived with the daily uncertainty of not knowing when an accident would occur. Many of the miners are today suffering work-related health problems and the effects of injuries in the mines.

The miners went to work in good faith expecting that at the time of retirement their pensions and healthcare benefits would be secure. They devoted their lives to good and honorable work. The miners and their families should not have to live today with uncertainty about their financial future and the medical benefits necessary for care in their senior years.

For these miners to lose any part of their pensions and healthcare coverage would send a devastating message to them and to their families. The corporations involved have a responsibility to honor the work that was done and find ways to ensure the integrity of the pensions and healthcare benefits.

This is not simply a legal issue. It is an issue of common decency and honor among participating parties. The miners have held up their end with integrity. It is time for the corporations to hold true to their commitments.

As the parish priest of the St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania and as the administrator of the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, in Fairmont, West Virginia, both mining communities, I have direct interest in the outcome of this case.

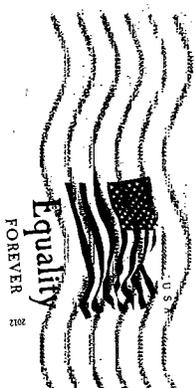
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Father Rodney Torbic

Very Rev. Dr. Rodney Toric
296 Old Rt 21
Carmichael, Ca 95320

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ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

the Honorable Kathy A. Svirach-States

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