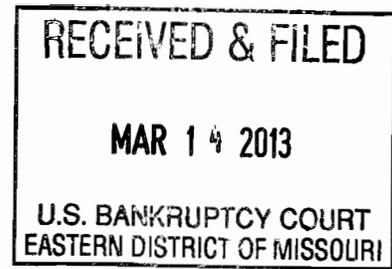


March 11, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
RE: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102



Dear Judge Surratt-States:

I am writing today in support of the retired mine workers and families whose lives may never be the same if the bankruptcy strategy employed by Peabody Coal through its spin-off company – Patriot Coal – is allowed to proceed.

As a life-long resident, native and banker with a 20-plus year career in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, I am keenly aware of the legacy and many positive contributions made to our community by both our mine workers and companies like Peabody Coal. My grandfather, Roy L. Rowe, was a coal miner for Peabody who was proud of his occupation and provided a fair day's work for a fair day's wage. He died in 1979 at the age of 60 of black lung, but those UMWA negotiated benefits for which he sweated, bled, and toiled all those years helped take care of my grandmother until her passing in 2002.

It is, in my opinion, unconscionable that Peabody could be allowed to sidestep the commitments that it negotiated in good faith with its workers years ago through such a transparent tactic.

If allowed to proceed, the Patriot Coal bankruptcy and resulting termination of existing retiree benefits would devastate tens of thousands of lives and communities across the country - particularly in places like Muhlenberg County - where the coal miner retiree, spouse, widow, and dependent population is so high.

I am not a member of the UMWA or any other union, nor am I particularly predisposed to the union view of issues most of the time. To me, this case isn't as much a conflict of union versus company as it is simply an issue of right and wrong. It isn't right what Peabody is trying to do here and it is disappointing that a company of Peabody's stature would attempt it.

In closing, let me say that many of our coal miners have literally given their lives to companies like Peabody Coal. Their widows and families should not be asked to do the same. I respectfully ask that you reject Peabody's attempt to avoid meeting its obligations to its retirees and workers through the Patriot Coal bankruptcy.

Sincerely,

Dean Rowe
2340 State Route 181 N.
Greenville, KY 42345

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2340 State Route 181 N.
Greenville, KY 42345.

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

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

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