



The Hon. Kathy A. Surratt - Stotes,

It is with heavy heart that you requesting that you please look deeply into the situation between Patriot Coal and the United Mine Workers.

My husband and I went thru this very situation in 2004 when Horizon Natural Resources was allowed to dump our health care. Thanks to the UMWA we have continued health care today. My husband fell off a ladder in 2011. He broke his left heel and shattered his right ankle. After five surgeries and numerous hospital stays we are thankful for our benefits. With out them, I shudder to think where we would be!

We both have numerous health issues, as do most 65-70 year old people. How does one afford health care at the most vulnerable time of their life, when they have always been assured it would be there? If our union brothers and sisters loose their health care, it will impact us all. The funds will have to reassess its assets in order to help everyone. Why should a company abundant in wealth be allowed to bend the truth for benefit of wealth + put an unspeakable burden on loyal employees when they are at the most vulnerable time of their life?

My prayer for you is that you respectfully see all sides and hardships that will result

if this company is allowed to be released  
of the promises and responsibilities, I shudder to  
think of the horrible impact on elderly lives.

The eyes of all companies who hold employees  
young and old in their hands are on this case.  
If Patriot and Peabody are released from their  
obligations, may heaven help all seniors and their  
people. I'm sure more companies will follow  
suit.

May God Bless you and help you to make  
a decision you and all of us can live with.

Respectfully,  
Mrs. Wm. A. Smith  
Proud member of the UMWA  
Local 2161

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EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

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The Hon. Kathy A. Surratt - States  
Re: Case 12-51502  
Thomas F. Engelman U.S. Courthouse  
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