

To the Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States,

My name is Jeremy Fekete. I'm from Man, Wva. I graduated in 2002 with the hopes of going to college, but my wife (girlfriend at the time) ended up pregnant with our first child. So I did what I know would take care of my family. I got my mining card so I could go to work mining. I am now 28 years old with 3 children. My wife and I are the same age. Our kids are 8, 6, 2. I have been mining since 2004. My oldest son was born 3 months before I started mining. The company I started with was non-union. I was driving an hour and a half there and back from work. We had to work 11 hour shift Monday through Friday, and 8 hour shifts every other Saturday. I wasn't getting but 6 days off a month. Through the week I was gone 14 hours a day. Plus I was on night shift. With my newborn at home I didn't get to see everything.

I didn't get to hear his first words,
watch him take his first steps,
nothing like that. My wife felt
as if she was both mommy and
daddy because I was always gone.
The money I was making with
the non-union company wasn't
great. When I left I was making
17 dollars an hour. I was making
a good living, but I wasn't
getting to enjoy my family. The
insurance wasn't so great either.
It was 90/10. When my daughter
was born in 2006 we had to pay
\$1300 (plus) just for her to be born.
That's not counting my wife's
prenatal care visits. I would
hate to remember exactly what
we paid a whole year of hospital
bills. Also with this non-union
company there was no medical
when you retire. Sure they had a
401k plan, but after I retire
I would have to use most of
the 401k for medical insurance.
There was no pension either.

So while I'm working for them I am having to take out more and more of my pay to put in a 401k. That's on top of the money I have to use out of my payday to visit the doctor. God has blessed my family. I have 3 healthy children.

My wife and I both are in good health. We prayed and prayed for something better for our growing family.

Something that would be good to us for the rest of our lives. Something with healthcare and a pension. In 2008 I was blessed to start working for a company that is represented by the UMW. The year I started our oldest son started school. We work a 4 on 2 off schedule. We work 10 hour shifts. I'm blessed because if I was still working the non-union company I would only get to spend time with my family the 6 days I have off a month. Now with my union job I'm off 10-12 days a month. Plus I get to see them 45 minutes to an hour

before I go to work everyday. Now

I'm making close to \$28 an hour.

Medical is 100%. We have a \$12
copay and \$5 per prescription.

With this I am providing a better
life for my kids, my wife, and I.

I get to see them a lot more. I
don't have to miss anything now. I

can start saving for my kids college
education. I would hate to think I'm

60 or 70 years a company would
take all I have worked for away from
me. If I put in my years of labor

and have a chance to retire and enjoy
what life I have left, just for it to be
took from me? To me this is sad.

When I think about all of this I don't
just think of my family. I think about

every family that is involved. Men that
have worked years for these companies
to have it all stripped from them.

I see men in my local union on
oxygen. I see them and know they
need their healthcare. I talked to a

guy I work with a lot. He tells me

his dad never worked for Patriot Coal.

Yet he is under their plan now.
He tells me his mother has cancer.
If it wasn't for the medical she
wouldn't be here. His dad told him
if he loses his healthcare, the only
chance they have is to sell their home.
That's a lot to bare for a man
who worked to help Peabody become
the largest coal company in the world.
Now him and his wife is dumped into
Patriot. I know you have a lot to deal
with. This whole thing has caused
a lot of stress on everyone involved.
Back in 2008 I thought I was
preparing for a future. I thought
I was bettering my family. I
pray the working man comes out
on the better side of this thing.
I would hate to think greed
would make all of our families
lose everything. We are just asking
for what is promised to us, what
we have and are working for.

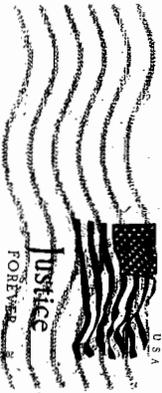
Thank you & God Bless!
Jeremy Fekete & Family

Jeremy Fekete
P.O. Box 944
Mtn, WV 25635

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

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

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