



Honorable Kathy A. Surratt -  
Re: case # 12-51502

I sat here with pen in hand, wondering where or how to begin this letter to you. Wondering how I can make it different than the many others you've probably received. I never thought I would be writing a letter because my Dad's retirement benefits were at risk. I guess you've read a lot about people's health issues. Dad and Mom have a long, long list of those that I could list, a lot of those actually started before his retirement. These people, Mom and Dad included, are not wanting to make you aware of their ~~private~~ medical matters to gain your sympathy, it's so you'll understand their situation - their needs, concerns and worries and what they have always relied on to meet those needs. I'm sure you understand that part also. Let me try to say something a little different, OK?

When Dad first started working in coal mines, he was at one within just a few miles and minutes from home. He always wanted the

best for his wife and 3 daughters and he worked hard to give it ~~them~~<sup>us</sup>. So it was not a surprise that when a chance came for him to take a job at another coal company with better pay, better benefits, backed by the union, there was no way he could pass that up. So Peabody Coal got a great man.

It meant also that he would possibly go days without seeing his 3 girls. He worked third shift, had a 4 hour drive (he would leave at 10 pm and get home at 10 am), ~~work~~ worked lots of overtime and I don't remember him missing much due to illness. I'm very proud to have Lawrence Stewart as my dad. I'm extremely proud of his work ethic and the person, the type of person, my dad is.

He always worked so hard for us, his family, way back then, while at the same time working for his and Mom's future, ~~now~~<sup>which is now</sup>. The way I see it, Dad already done his part and <sup>gave</sup> Peabody Coal 100% and more when needed and done so for years and years. Now all that dedication may as well have

been for nothing? Well, shame on them!  
They just can't treat people like that.

Your Honor, I'm sure you're working  
very hard toward a happy retirement.  
Imagine, just for a moment, that you're  
put in the position as one of the people  
you've read about. Not just Dad & Mom, but  
all the workers, spouses, widows and  
widowers. Imagine your benefits, that you  
already worked hard for, are at risk.  
That's the position all these people and my  
Dad are in.

They worked hard for ~~to~~ their retirement  
packages. None of those packages included  
broken promises - they deserve far more  
than that - don't you think?

Respectfully yours,

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

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States

Re: Case NO. 12-51502

Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse

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St. Louis, MO 63102

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