

To: Honorable Kathy A Surratt-States

Re: Case #12-51502

I am writing this letter on behalf of my father, Kirby Youngblood. My father worked for Peabody Coal Company in Lynville, Indiana for 32 years. As a child, I remember him working long hours at the coal mine, often on holidays. We had to wait every Christmas morning for him to get home so that we could open our presents. He missed most of our school functions and sporting events because he was working, providing for his family. My dad managed to put all three of his children through college, without burdening any of us with student loans. He put in countless hours of overtime and many, many holidays for the company that he would later retire from.

I have learned that Patriot Coal filed bankruptcy and that my parent's medical insurance and other benefits are in jeopardy of being taken away. I honestly feel that Peabody Coal gave the burden of retiree medical benefits to Patriot Coal because they knew that they would eventually go out of business. Why is it fair that my parents be penalized for something that is clearly the responsibility of Peabody? Why was my dad promised retiree medical benefits from Peabody, only to find out that they have placed the blame and responsibility elsewhere?

My father, Kirby Youngblood, did not work for Patriot Coal. He worked for Peabody. It wasn't Patriot Coal that he gave countless hours to, it was Peabody. It wasn't Patriot Coal that he dedicated 32 years of his life to, it was Peabody. I find it very disheartening that the company that my father, and so many other people, worked so hard for, could just write him off like he meant nothing. Those benefits rightfully belong to my parents for my dad's dedication to a company that he spent over three decades with. It is Peabody's responsibility to honor the benefits that my father, and many other people, were promised.

I am asking that you please consider the many people whose lives will be affected if the medical benefits are taken away. In today's economy, and at my parent's age, it is not fair to take something as important as medical insurance away. If so, all of the hard work and dedication to Peabody was for nothing. What kind of message does it send to young people who are entering the workforce? It reinforces the belief that companies do not care about their employees, or retired employees, and that hard work doesn't really get you anywhere in the long run. That sure isn't a message that I want my children to learn.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you find it in your heart to ensure that these retirees keep what they have earned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kari Coomes".

Kari Coomes

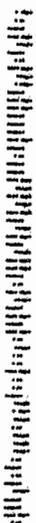
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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI-MR

Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States
Thomas F. Eagleton US Court 70 case
111 South Ninth St. 4th Floor
St. Louis Mo. 63102

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