

Candace A. Ashby
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04/26/2013

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

RE: Case No. 12-51502

Dear Honorable Surratt-States,

I am writing this letter in reference to the Peabody/Patriot Coal litigations that will impact many retired miners, widows of deceased miners and their families. The decision of the Court will not affect me personally as far as having insurance, but will have a considerable impact on my mother.

I understand that you and your staff probably receive hundreds of letters daily pertaining to the above stated case, and I am certain that you have read many pleas for the thoughtful consideration of the decision that you may render.

My dad worked for Peabody Coal years. In fact, he spent more time at Sinclair Surface Mine in Drakesboro, KY than he did with his family. I realize that he worked long hours and double shifts in order to provide for his family. He wanted to ensure that we had everything we needed and when he and my mother reached retirement age, they would have the security of not worrying about how they would afford health insurance or have to juggle their retirement income in order to pay for prescriptions and other health care related expenses with basic other costs of living (utilities, food, etc.). Please don't misconstrue what I am saying. My parents saved for retirement, but they also were counting on the fact the health insurance that was promised in the retirement plan for the employees of Peabody Coal Company would continue.

My dad died from metastatic adeno carcinoma 15 days after his 49th birthday in 1989. I remember as a child him packing his lunch box for a long day at the mines each night before he went to bed. He would leave before I was up for school. He missed many school functions because of his dedication to Peabody Coal Company.

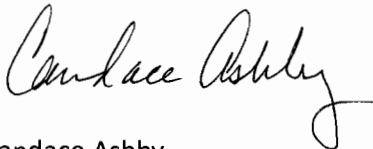
I firmly believe that Patriot Coal was created in order for Peabody to unload the retirement expenses of hundreds of miners. I also feel that all involved in this endeavor knew from the beginning the reasons for the creation of the spin-off company.

Interestingly enough, after Patriot has filed for bankruptcy because of the costs of the retirement and the decrease of the consumption of fossil fuels, at the same time Peabody has boasted about record profits. Also, a couple of weeks ago, when Patriot Coal officials stated that Peabody purposely and knowingly unloaded the pensions **suddenly** the Peabody stock dropped. I can't help but think this is a last ditch effort by Peabody to **show** that they are now losing dollars. Is this just another manipulation of the stock market based on the data that this company is providing? I think it probably is. Whether it is or not, it's not for me to say.

I realize that your decisions must be made based on the law and your careful and thoughtful interpretations of them. I ask that you please consider the impact that the decision of the Court will have on the thousands of individuals, hundreds of widows (like my mother) and families. As I type this letter, I can't help but remember the movie I watched as a child and have seen many times since, **"Miracle on 34th Street"**. This was always one of my favorites. Hopefully, we can have a **"Miracle on South 10th Street"**.

Thank you for your time, understanding and careful consideration of this landmark decision regarding case number 12-51502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candace Ashby". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

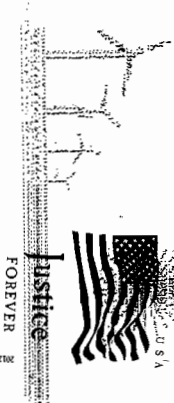
Candace Ashby

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APR 29 2013
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

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THE HONORABLE KATHY A. SURRATT-STATES

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