

Honorable Shelley C. Chapman

(1.)

My name is Delbert Richie. I have worked for Peabody - Patriot Coal Company for 33 years. I retired in 2006.

For 33 years I entered a dark, cold damp coal mines and gave everything I had. I missed not being able to see sun light. I really worked hard and applied myself to my job. The work was dangerous and I still have flashes of those dangers.

Those 33 years was also a time of sacrifice. Many times Peabody - Patriot asked us as employee's to give up part of our wages and benefits so they could show more profit. Each and every time we voted to accept these conditions. I or we even voted to give up all our paid days off. We even voted to continue to work without a contract. During all this sacrifice we continued to work with pride, because we were told by Peabody - Patriot that the extra profit would go towards our retirement benefits. A few years ago Peabody put all of us into a

group and created a spin-off and called it Patriot. Now Patriot - who I have never worked a day for has declared to go bankrupt, just 5 short years after this spin-off was created. We are or were Peabody Employees all these years. I feel we have been mis-lead in the worst possible way. I believe Peabody-Patriot is trying to avoid their obligations.

I'm asking you as a 64 year old coal miner that has gave Peabody-Patriot my all, to please rule in favor of the venue filled by the UMWA and others. I don't believe even one coal miner that Patriot claims that receives benefit ever worked a day in New York. We surely need Peabody-Patriot to have their day in Charleston, West Virginia. I realize you are busy, and I want to thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely
Dellert Richie

Home # 270-362-9466

Cell # 270-543-7696