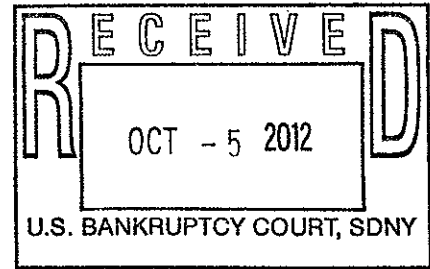


The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman
One Bowling Green
Courtroom 621
New York, New York 10004-1408



Your Honor

I am an 82 years old widow of Marcus Combs who worked 42 years in the coal mines.. He worked 60-70 hours a week for Peabody Coal Co. never turning down a shift when needed. Our Health Care was guaranteed, signed and sealed for life in a UMWA contract by Peabody Coal Co. and then diverted to Patriot Coal in an effort we believe to rid Peabody of this obligation.

Losing my health care would devastate me financially and emotionally. I have severe back problems and have had one back surgery. I also suffer from arthritis. Depression, high blood, and allergies.

I do not want to be a burden to my children. My husband worked until age 68 years old, long and hard hours in the mines, thinking that when he passed I would be able to make it with Social Security, a small pension and health care for life,

We have 4 daughters we sent to college, which we paid for in full, thus our savings didn't come to a lot.

Thank you for reading my letter. God Bless you.

Sincerely,

Mary Rachel Combs
535 N. Madison St.
Beaver Dam, Ky. 42320
Tel. 270 274-3146

Email-cisewsew@bellsouth.net