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October 1, 2012

Hon. Shelley C. Chapman
One Bowling Green
Courtroom 621
New York, NY 10004-1408

Re: Peabody Patriot Coal bankruptcy

Hon. S. Chapman:

I am writing to you out of concern for myself and others should Peabody Coal be allowed to drop insurance benefits which are rightly due to all miners that have worked for Peabody Coal Company.

I begin my career in mining in 1967 at the age of 18 years old. At that time, the hard working miners agreed to work under the "Cradle to Grave" agreement where we were paid lower wages, paid in union dues and thus benefited from having the peace of mind that our families would always be provided health coverage.

I provided for my family for many years through Peabody Coal before I became the victim of a mining accident. I suffered multiple back, hip and leg injuries which prohibited me from ever returning to work not only in the mines but any occupation.

Today I suffer from kidney disease along with other multiple health problems. The medication I am required to take to prevent me from going on dialysis is very expensive to say the least.

As numerous other families, if Peabody Coal is allowed to discontinue health coverage through bankruptcy, I will no longer be able to afford my medication.

Please give careful consideration to your decision and the impact that it could have on many families and communities.

Best Regards,
Tex D. Smith

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