

The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman,

I worked at the Federal# 2 mine for Patriot/Peabody Coal Company for over forty-two years. I had to have cervical spine surgery (laminectomy) with four fusions (photos enclosed) and had to retire in July of 2011. I have also been diagnosed with lumbar spinal problems that are being treated for at this time. Injections and/or surgery have been given to me as my options by my neurology surgeon. These procedures are to keep me upright and mobile. My wife is a diabetic, with COPD, hypertension and has only one Kidney. She has had one (1) kidney failure episode and must have blood work and see her physician on a regular basis. She has to take eight (8) medications daily for her above mentioned medical problems. Without our health and medical insurance, we will either be bankrupt or demised, for we could not afford those costs. Over the 42 years I worked at Federal #2, I have given up wage increases and retirement benefits to have and keep my medical insurance while I was employed and after I retired. Your Honor, I, my wife and family pray that you have compassion for those thousands of us who made Patriot and Peabody's profits(billions of dollars) and not those (the Banks) that only invested money, not sweat and blood like we workers have given through the years. I hope you have compassion and feelings for all of us hard working coal miners, for we are at your mercy.



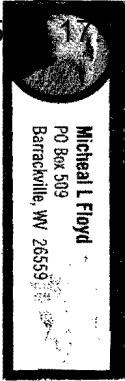
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