

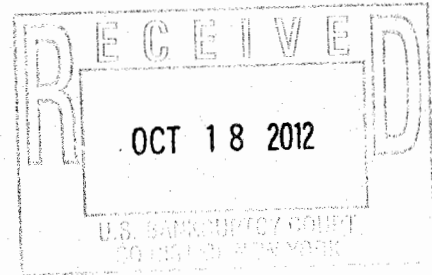
**September 18, 2012**

**The Honorable Shelley C. Capman**

**One Bowling Green**

**Courtroom 621**

**New York, New York 10004-1408**



**Dear Ms. Chapman,**

**I am writing concerning the bankruptcy case brought before your court concerning Peabody, Arch and Patriot Coal. I have worked for all three companies.**

**I have worked in the coal mines since I was eighteen and stayed thirty six years underground. I worked in conditions that were almost unbearable. The dust was so thick which made the visibility and breathing very difficult. I have waded water in bad conditions and many times rocks would fall down from bad top. I have lost many of my friends to death because of these conditions.**

**The miners that worked for these companies made the companies rich and we were promised health care for life. My Dad, brother and many family members also worked for these companies. My Mother is in a Nursing Home and has great need of this health care. I worked hours upon hours of overtime for these coal companies and now they want to take my health care away.**

**Now I'm older and my family needs the health care that I worked so very hard for. It seems unfair to work so hard for most of your life for something that could be taken away, like our health care. Health care was promised to us in every contract that was signed. The coal miner counted on what was promised to them. Many worked when they were unable to work so they would get their time in to receive their health benefits.**

**Please consider allowing the bankruptcy decision be moved where it belongs, in the one of the coal areas, Charleston, WV. Or if you make the decision yourself, remember our situation.**

**Thank you,**

*Maxie L Brown*

**Maxie Brown**

**Local 1503**