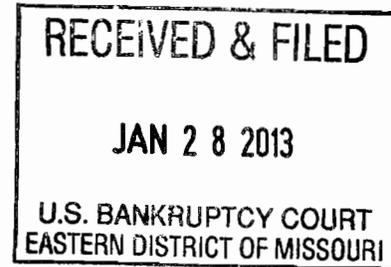


January 23, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102



RE: Case No. 12-51502

Dear Honorable Surratt-States;

My name is DeWitt S. McGriff. I am a retired UMWA Coal Miner with 31 years of dependable, hardworking labor, who worked seven days a week for Arch of Illinois. As most Coal Miners, our company had a six day scheduled workweek with Sunday being optional. Depending on your classification some jobs were seven days a week. We all took honor and pride in doing our best every day. The more hard working and efficient we were, the better the company could price their coal to be more competitive in the market place, which guaranteed us longer and better coal selling contracts.

Working like this doesn't come without a toll on the workers and their families. We do this just as our fathers and grandfathers had done before us. All this to insure improvement in our working conditions and to achieve a guarantee to the miner and his family a living retirement wage and promised health care for life thru the collective bargaining agreement.

We lived up to our portion of the bargaining agreement while we worked and made millions of dollars for the coal companies. Now today as a retiree for about 13 years, the company I never worked for "Patriot Coal" says they can't afford to fund my retirement income nor my health care. My last employer was Arch Coal; they were responsible for my portion of the collective bargaining agreement, when I voted for the said agreement. They should be held responsible. They sell to another company or "Shell Company" with the sole purpose of letting the "Shell Company" go under and file for bankruptcy. Thus, Arch has no obligations to the hundreds or thousands of miners and their families. The same miners who gave their labor and some their lives to make Arch and Peabody the largest coal companies in the world. They must be held fully responsible for these obligations.

I am 62 years old and was diagnosed with Black Lung about 13 years ago. Being around large mining equipment all those years, I also have severe hearing loss. My wife and I have raised our family and looking forward to "Our Golden Years". We both face the possibility of the serious health challenges due to life and life as a coal miner with already diagnosed medical problems.

If the coal companies are allowed to break their promises my family and the thousands of miner in far worse health conditions will face a bleak uncertainty and suffer horribly. The price of

Page two

insurance for some retirees with severe medical problems will be sky high and maybe not even attainable. At our age how would we able to find a job anywhere that has benefits?

We plead for our rights as a coal miner and retirees due us by the collective bargaining agreement we agreed to by voting. I ask that you hear our plea and do what is right. We lived up to our part of the bargain. The coal company should live up to its part of the agreement also.

Thank you so much for reading the strong concerns I have about my retirement and health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DeWitt S. McGriff". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

DeWitt S. McGriff

DeWitt S. McGriff  
405 West Main  
Ava, IL 62907

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102



CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MF

2013 JAN 28 AM 10:30

RECEIVED+FILED

6310284125 0009

