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JAN 30 2013  
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Dear Judge Surrah-States:

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

I am a second generation coal miner that has been working for Peabody Coal Co. (now Patriot) since 1972. Throughout all these years I have been promised health care upon my retirement. Now that I am rapidly approaching retirement Peabody (through questionable business tactics) is attempting to strip me of health care. I know that it is "Patriot Coal Co" that is seeking bankruptcy protection, but I also know that "Patriot" is a surrogate for Peabody Coal Co.

Peabody has become a multi-national company through my hard labor and the sweat and blood of many others. While working for Peabody/Patriot I have been injured several times. I have had stitches on 4 occasions. I have crushed my thumb, broken a finger, torn my rotator cuff and suffered many mangled fingers and other minor injuries. I have permanently damaged my lungs through years of breathing coal dust and diesel fumes, my back is ruined from heavy lifting in low coal. I have always felt that I owed my employers 8 hrs. work for 8 hrs. pay, now it seems that loyalty was completely one sided.

While the executives of Peabody and Patriot have become rich through manipulating company stocks and "spinning"

off companies, we workers are facing poverty through having no health care. I personally have lost about \$30,000.00 on Patriot stock (which is a very significant amount of money for me). While Irv Engichant and Richard Whiting and others have sold millions of dollars of Patriot Coal stock. This stock was given to them but I had to purchase mine through payroll deduction.

I think what I really want you to know is this. One day I was working for Peabody Coal Co. (the largest energy, coal, company in the world) the next day, with no say from me, I was working for a fledgling new company called Patriot. It was somewhat bewildering to me but I continued to show up and do my job, working for the same bosses at the same location. Now Patriot wants to strip me of benefits I earned from Peabody (I have over 30 years under Peabody). Bernie Madoff and others have been sent to prison for doing the same things, it seems to me, that Engichant and Whiting have done. I am not at all familiar with corporate law, but it's obvious that this is not fair or right.

Thank you and Best wishes

JERRY MELINDA

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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
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The Honorable Kathy A. Suddath-States  
RE. Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas F. Engleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10th Street, 4th floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102



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