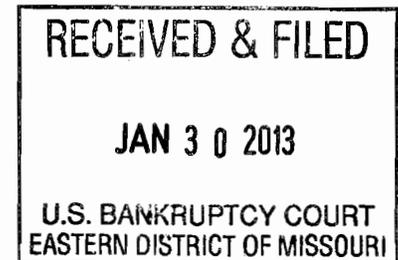


Samuel Perdue  
2273 Fields Creek Road  
Winifrede, W.V. 25214

January 25, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States  
Re: Case No, 12-51502  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102



Dear Judge,

My name is Samuel Perdue and I am retired from *Peabody Coal Company / UMWA*. I retired in 2001 from *Peabody's Big Mountain Division*. I started at *Big Mountain* in 1976 at that time the mines was owned by *Armco Steel*. Prior to this I worked for *Carbon Fuel Coal Company* at Winifrede ,WV. Peabody now operates one of these mines on what was *Carbon Fuels* property, just a couple of miles beyond our home called *Kanawha Eagle*. From what some employee's describe conditions there it sounds typical of *Peabody's* operations. During my employment at *Big Mountain* I was laid – off several times , fortunately I was recalled several times. Once to *Montcoal # 7* then to *Stickney WV to # 27* mines , leaving there I went back to *Big Mountain*. I drove one hour each way to work and I worked every day that was available to me and then some ,of as I aged extra work was selective. My work record will bear witness to this. I don't think corporate *Peabody* ever missed me !

During my time at *Big Mountain* I served my Local Union 6426 in various capacities ranging from Vice President to Chairman of our Food bank . I believe my record will show that I worked in every attempt to maintain peace and unity. Upon returning to *Big Mountain* after *Peabody* had acquired the operation I was shocked at the attitude of this new company.

I had not ever worked where management was so angry and filled

with so much hatred for the *UMWA*. Hand shakes were now replaced with an attitude of a shaking fists in our faces. For several years to follow , every issue that came up was a fight. As the food bank representative I was told that *Peabody* was not in the business of human relations especially the poultry business (it was Christmas time). This went on for years, finally it seemed that management might be changing. But so much damage was done it seemed impossible to make corrections. During one of the contact strikes *Peabody* used it's salary people to directly confront their own hourly employees, bosses that had went to school and grew up together with these men, the very same management you will be dealing with, used them against each other. I've said all of this to expose just a fraction of my experience with this ruthless organization know as *PEABODY COAL COMPANY!* It is their plan to crush the very coal miners that made them rich, in spite of their own selves. Several of these same executives have been with Peabody a long time an are experts at deception. I am asking the you as the Judge to be fair with us Retiree's.

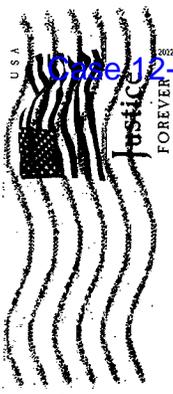
I have spent half of my life underground in *Peabody's* mines. Now I'm old, my body is worn to the point that no one would have any use for me as an employee, my heart is bad, my lungs are bad as a result of working at the face so many years for Peabody. If they take away my insurance ... breathing it's self will become much more difficult. Everywhere I go, the conversation is the same "**What are we going to do?**" at the gas station I spoke with a friend that is worried about her husband that now has alzheimer, at church I can here folks at the alter crying out to GOD for help, at the grocery store pharmacy folks are in tears with worry about their health insurance.

I plead with you, your honor, be fair and be just with my people, I will continue to pray for you for I know this is very difficult. I pray that GOD will grant you wisdom and give you the discernment that you need. May GOD bless and keep you through these trying times.

Samuel Perdue "retired"



Samuel Perdue  
2273 Fields Creek Road  
WiniFrede, WV 25214



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The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States  
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