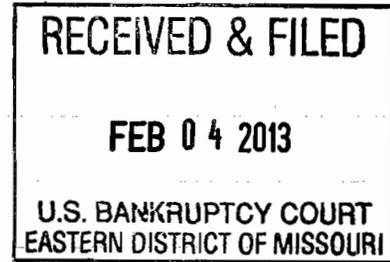


Allen Kuhn
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Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States
RE: Case # 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States :

Please take the time to read this letter to better understand our plight in this bad situation. We are a family in every sense of the way. Our family consists of coalminer blood lines that date back many generations and our families intertwine with small rural communities of coalminers that have had to fight for everything that we have in this world. We have lived on broken promises, broken contracts, and broken hearts.

Coalminers have had to risk their lives every day in order to work to support and raise their families. Conditions in the coalmines are unhealthy and unsafe, and the sad

part of this is that Coal Company Operators did not care for our lives; the most important thing was the "ALL Mighty Dollar". Many conditions could have been improved, and legally should have been improved but were not because that would have cost the Coal Companies money that they preferred to put in their pockets.

We were promised and was also in a legal contract that we would have medical coverage for ourselves and dependents until the day we die. This promise was made due to the fact that we risked our lives daily not only in unsafe conditions but in unhealthy conditions as well. Breathing in Coaldust daily destroys ones' lungs facing old age with "Black lung", a Chronic obstructive lung disease. Crawling under ground on your hands and knees, working in areas that were smaller than a man's height cripples your body. All of this was our world and was accepted along with the contract that would take care of us medically and financially when we retire with poor health. Now we are threatened once again by Corporate greed to abandon us. I never worked one day under "Patriot Coal". I retired under "Peabody Coal" before Patriot Coal ever existed. How could they take my legally earned health benefit and retirement away from me?

I wish that you would take the time to travel to Boone County, WV to see firsthand what Coal Companies have done not only to the people of West Virginia but also to our land, homes, and

Water systems. We thought "Mountain Top Removal" was the final devastation to West Virginians but we were sadly mistaken. Please do not allow the companies to completely rape and pillage our families and home place.

I have enclosed pictures of my family, please note that our son is a laid off coalminer. At this time I'm helping to support his 2 daughters (my granddaughters!) We cannot withstand the financial and medical hardship that Patriot Coal wishes upon us.

Sincerely yours,

Allen Kuhn

Retired UMWA Coalminer

Local # 9177

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