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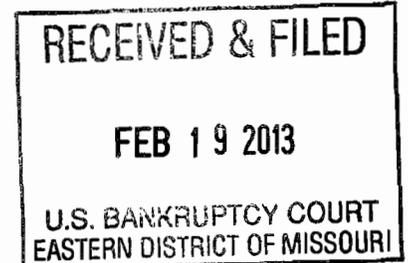
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February 13, 2013

JERRY F. COSTELLO II
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
116TH DISTRICT



The Honorable Kathy Surratt-States
Re: Case # 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton US Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 62102

Honorable Judge Surratt-States:

Last night another coal miner died in Illinois. I didn't personally know him but I care. I care about his family; his immediate biological family as well as his mining brothers and sisters. He was only 28 years old and engaged in the second most dangerous industry in the nation.

I pray that the hardships and life threatening working conditions experienced by our nations' coal miners are not kept in the dark and that the men and women who worked in the coal mines of Peabody and Arch Coal see justice served regarding their earned benefits at the Patriot Coal Corporation bankruptcy hearing.

For huge conglomerates like these two coal companies to play a game of chess with their corporate legal status so they can re-nig on the earned benefits of their employees is inherently, morally wrong. To set up spin off corporations as far in advance as did the legal experts of Peabody Coal and Arch Coal is premeditated and puts a great hardship on these men and women.

Peabody and Arch have promised health care for life to over 90% of their retirees and their retirees' widows. The loss of earned and promised benefits will be devastating to the tens of thousands of UMWA families throughout the nation's coalfields. I hear from retired miners on a regular basis who need help with medications. They have black lung, they have COPD, and they have severe arthritis, in addition to other chronic diseases many of which were brought about by their years working in the mines. They are worried that they cannot afford their medicine and medical care. Their insurance benefits and pensions are their lifeline that keeps them going.

The current Peabody global platform is impressive. Peabody Energy information sheets state "comprehensive health and wellness benefits and competitive compensation make Peabody a great place to work". Peabody is a global industry. Peabody's global platform lists US mining, Australia mining, Peabody in China, Peabody in Mongolia, Peabody in Indonesia. Please help to insure that Patriot Coal and Arch Coal retirees, widows, and dependents are not treated like they live in a third world country. The men and women who worked in the coal mines under Peabody and Arch still say they were Peabody people or Arch people and have said from its' inception that Patriot Coal was set up as a smoke screen and that Patriot would to try to cheat them out of their benefits.

Please give this plea for what we feel is justice, your utmost consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry F. Costello II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jerry F. Costello II
State Representative
116th District

JFC:jg



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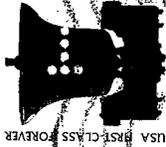
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

JERRY F. COSTELLO II
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 116TH DISTRICT
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The Honorable Kathy Surratt-States
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Thomas F. Eagleton US Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 62102

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