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FEB 21 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Feb. 18, 2013

Dear Honorable Judge Surratt - states,

I am a 32-year employee of Peabody Coal Co. (not Patriot, like they are implying). When I hired in at Peabody the clerk told me I'd retire there, as they had plenty of coal reserves, and it would be a long-lived mine. Little did he know that they would close the mine while it was still profitable, and while we were producing coal as cheaply as the non-union mines; and we were told it still had at least eight more years of coal reserves left.

But apparently they wanted our three-million ton/per year contract to support their new non-union mine - the last few years of our contract they tried to put Lynnville mine in the red. But despite their best efforts, it was still in the black when they unexpectedly closed us down.

We took less wages all the years - for their guarantee of lifetime health care and retirement benefits. These were dangerous jobs - four (or five) men lost their lives at Lynnville, and there were

hundreds of close calls not resulting in death, but injuries.

They re-opened the coal reserves, and are mining it under different names. They did this to get rid of the Union, and are now trying to put the last nail in the coffin by trying to do away with our health care and retirement benefits. We all had the understanding that we would have health care and retirement benefits the rest of our lives.

Now that they are mining what were former Lynnville Mine coal reserves, why aren't these mines in the Patriot Co. - why aren't they listed in their profits?? Or does Peabody even have to show these "subsidiaries" as profits on their own sheets?

I never thought that Peabody would try to take away everything that I worked and risked my life for. It's unbelievable that they would give themselves millions in bonuses while my wife and I, and countless others (many with health problems acquired from working at the mines) are afraid to go to the doctor (and/or plan needed

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treatments) for fear of running up bills we might not be able to pay in the future.

Now that we're older and won't be able to hold down our part-time jobs indefinitely, we need our health and retirement benefits more than ever. We're praying that my wife's thyroid problem (the doctor wants to take it out), and my hip problem won't force us to have surgery - we can't afford added bills on top of what we already have.

I'm thinking of my friends and former co-workers who are in worse <sup>physical</sup> shape than I am, and are now suffering through this, wondering, like we are, what are we going to do if Peabody/Patriot succeeds in breaking their promises?

We would sincerely appreciate any help you can give. May God bless you and keep you.

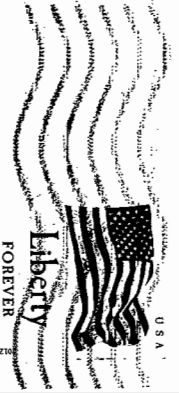
Sincerely,

Donald L. Okes  
Roberta K. Okes

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2013 FEB 21 AM 10:47  
CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, MO

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19 FEB 2013 PM 11



*The Honorable Kathy A. Summit - States*

*Re: Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Court House  
111 S. 10th St., 4th Floor  
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