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Sandra D. Ehlschide
504 Paradise Street
Grunville, Ky 42345
February 20, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surrates - Statte
Re: Case No 12-51502
Thomas F. Egglston U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO. 63102

Dear Honorable Kathy A. Surrates,

I am a music lover. I have no talents myself, but I admire and find pleasure in the gifts of others. I possess a variety of musical artists representing numerous genres, but my most treasured piece in my collection is a weathered 45 of Loretta Lynn's classic "Coal Miner's Daughter" because no matter what I achieve in life or how high I climb the economic ladder I always see myself as a "Coal Miner's Daughter" with the same level of pride and passion that Mrs Lynn achieves in her touching homage to her coal mining background.

And as a coal miner's daughter, I am disheartened to hear that Patriot Coal Company is now trying to take advantage of bankruptcy loopholes to deny Peabody Coal Company retirees the pensions and health benefits that they EARNED! Years ago, my dad entered into a contract with Peabody Coal Company to give them an honest day's work for an honest day's wage. He more than fulfilled his part of the agreement. Now it's time for

Peabody/Patriot Coal Companies to fulfill its part of the agreement - not hide behind a shell company created for the sole purpose of declaring bankruptcy and being absolved of the fiduciary responsibility of retired miners' pensions and health benefits.

My dad literally gave the best years of his life to Peabody Coal Company, and now that he and other miners like him need the pensions and health benefits that they EARNED and DESERVE, Peabody/Patriot Coal Companies want to play "shell" games with their lives. Shame on them! I may not understand the letter of the law, but I understand the spirit of it. And, I definitely understand right from wrong: it is WRONG for big, prosperous companies like Peabody Coal Company to create shell companies like Patriot Coal Company to absolve it of the responsibility for paying retirees' pensions and health care benefits. Years ago, Peabody Coal Company entered a contract with these miners; in good faith, these miners fulfilled their end of the deal. Peabody/Patriot Coal Companies should now be legally forced to honor their part of the agreement.

If my dad were the man he was years ago when he was employed by Peabody Coal Company, I would not be writing this correspondence. But time and coal mining have both taken a toll on his body. The once vigorous man with lean muscles and overgrown Elvis-like sideburns has now been replaced by a frail Yalsimil needing both a pacemaker and regular doses of insulin to physically survive.

And, he also needs his Peabody/Patriot Coal Companies pension and healthcare benefits to financially survive. He needs what he EARNED.

In closing, as stated previously, I love music. And as I was organizing my thoughts for this correspondence, another one of my favorite songs kept playing in my head - John Prince's "Daddy Won't You Take Me Back to Muhlenberg County." For the first time I realized if Peabody/Patriot Coal Companies are not held accountable for their fiduciary responsibilities toward retired miners' pensions and healthcare benefits, then Prince's prophetic words just might become our reality. "Oh, Daddy, won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County? I'm sorry, my son, but you're too late in asking. Mr. Peabody's Coal train done hauled it away." Without miner's pensions and healthcare benefits, many individuals in Muhlenberg County will suffer, especially older individuals, and especially older women. Please keep this in mind when making this very difficult decision. Don't just "haul us away" like "Mr. Peabody's coal train" and this phantom company called Patriot.

Sandy D. Galschide

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The Honorable Rethy A. Surrates - Statos

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