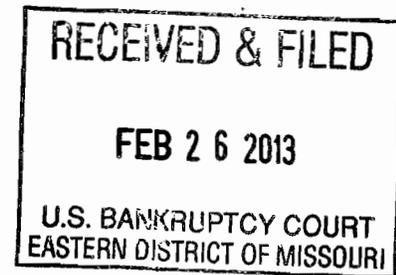


2/21/2012

Wess Harris  
229 Birtrice Road  
Gay, West Virginia 25244



Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States  
Re: Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 S. 10th St., 4th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Judge Surratt-States:

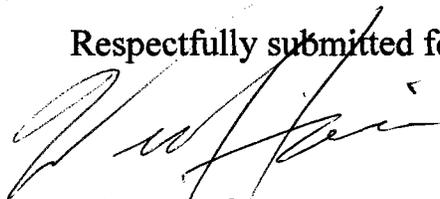
I am unable to travel to St. Louis but ask that you consider the following comments as you weigh the difficult issues before you regarding Patriot/Peabody Coal and the UMWA. I am sure you will hear many times the main issues and so perhaps I can offer some small fresh insight.

I wear many hats. A former president of a UMWA Local Union, I also have started and successfully run a number of businesses. No doubt that the argument can well be made that the letter of the law (as designed by those with sufficient clout to write it) can be construed in such a way that thousands of miners and their dependents will suffer tremendous loss. This as persons of wealth who have never dug an ounce of coal in their lives accumulate more wealth while basking in light from bulbs powered by coal. May I humbly submit to you that while a narrow interpretation of the roll of a jurist is to apply the law blindly, a more accurate description of your task is to be an arbiter of justice. Apply the law but always within context. Each legal decision contributes to our collective identity as a People. Who do you want us to be? How shall others view us? Are we a People of wisdom or of unmitigated greed?

Imagine if you will that the federal government has grown weary of the cost of federal judges. Henceforth, you will all be attached to the court system of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The fine folks of that community will support all of your pensions and health care through their meager tax collections. Should they not be able to manage the cost of providing for all federal judges, you will be wished well and discarded. Am I to believe that you would not expect the federal government for whom you served to step

forward and provide for your well being after decades of loyal service? Are we not to believe that if greed trumps wisdom in the coal fields, millions upon millions of American workers will soon face the fate of being discarded like old, worn out shovels?

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wess Harris", written in a cursive style.

Wess Harris

*Wesley Harris  
289 Birtice Rd  
Gay, W.V. 25244*

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02/26/2013 PM 3:00

*Hon. Kathy A. Surrod - STATES  
Re: Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 S. 10th St., 4th Floor  
St. Louis, MO*

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