

Honorable Kathy A. Surrate-States
Thomas R. Eagleton Court House
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Mo. 63102



Dear Judge Surrate-State,

My name is Lelia Vance and I have never worked in the coal mines but I have worked in the industrial field for forty years and I know it would be devastating to lose my pension and how it enables me to have a better and more secure lifestyle.

I have known Patricia Leet, who has worked at Peabody-Patriot coal mines for thirty two years and have been friends with her for fifty years. I worked with her in an aluminum smelter and know her work ethic and what she has given up over the years to be able to retire without having to worry about how she is going to live when she is no longer able to work.

I know the struggles she has gone through to work at Peabody coal which is a male dominated field of work. I know the effort that she has given in order to stay in the coal mines and survive so she could retire with pension and health benefits and to now see all she has worked so hard for all of those years be taken away because the company decides it want more profit and does not want to live up to its promises.

It is a shame and shows total lack of character by a company that has expected it employees to work in a dangerous field of work and put their lives on the line for them. The company knew what would happen when they spun off the company to a new entity and that those employees would eventually lose everything because Patriot coal could not sustain what had been promised by Peabody coal.

I am asking you to consider these employees and what they have given up so Peabody could profit and stay in business and now wants to treat them as though they were nothing and take away their health and pension benefits. Why should so many people have to pay for one companies lack of conscience. I ask you to think of my friend, Patricia Leet and her struggles and what she has given up and not let Peabody coal take away her future.

Sincerely your,


Lelia Vance

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