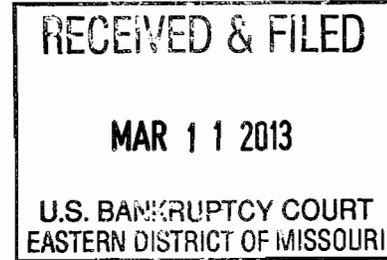


The Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 S. 10 St. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102



RE: Case No. 12-51502

It wasn't until I visited the [fairnessatpatriot.org](http://fairnessatpatriot.org) website, read the many stories and viewed the many testimonies posted by UMWA members both active and retired that I felt compelled to write this letter. The ongoing lawsuit between Peabody/Patriot and UMWA has thousands of people clutched in a desperate situation. The uncertainty of the outcome is affecting many young and old, working and non-working, widows and widowers. My husband and I are no different. We have spent the last several months worrying, reviewing, and discussing options available to us concerning the possible loss of our retirement pension and/or health care coverage.

My husband worked in the coal mines, retiring after 39 years of service. I worked for a school system in a non-certified position for 38 years. We have for the most part been blessed with good health the majority of our lives. The security of knowing we would have lifetime healthcare coverage and a lifetime retirement pension led us to make the decision to retire at an early age so that we could enjoy our families and many other opportunities not available to us during our working years.

Losing our healthcare coverage and/or retirement pension would be devastating. Where would we get the money to purchase individual insurance coverage if the retirement pension is removed or reduced? We are both years away from Medicare eligibility. How would we take care of our normal living expenses? We are not opposed to returning to the work force however in today's economy what company or business would be willing to hire us and certainly none would extend benefits at our ages.

I do not know the legalities of this lawsuit, but I do know right from wrong. What Peabody/Patriot is trying to do is **WRONG**. Their broken promises will affect thousands. It is my concern that if Peabody/Patriot prevail in this battle a precedence might be set allowing other greedy corporations to attempt to squelch on contracts and promises made to employees. Which union will be next? Unions across the United States would eventually be eliminated, meaning no protection in the area of safety, wages, healthcare and retirement pensions for the middle class hard working people.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this as I know you have received countless letters. May God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy L. Flahardy".

Cathy L. Flahardy  
9925 Vickery Lane  
Shawneetown IL 62984  
618-269-3743

RECEIVED + FILLED

2013 MAR 11 AM 10:29

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MO

*Cathy Glendon  
9925 Hickory Lane  
St. Louis, MO 63125*

6310231125

*The Hon. Kathy A. Bennett - States  
Re: Case # 12-51502  
Shirley A. Glendon U.S. Courtroom  
1118. 10 St., 4th Floor  
St. Louis MO 63102*

