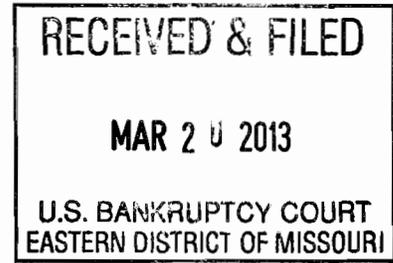


Paul Epling  
PO Box 204  
Lake, WV 25121  
March 17, 2013



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

Dear Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States:

I am currently a retiree of Patriot Coal {Formally Magnum Coal-Arch Coal}. I am writing this letter to tell how devastating this ruling will be on my life. I have forty years of service with no lost time for accident or sickness. There were a lot of 10 hour days and almost all forty years were six day weeks(mandatory). I always upheld my part of the contract. Every contract I worked under told me I had an earned pension with medical benefits.

I am unable to work now and if I lose my pension and medical benefits, this will be financially devastating to my wife and me. I have been diagnosed with Spinal Stenois and have two knees with arthritis which will need replacement soon. I have maintenance medicine (Synthroid, Advair, and Nexium for Barretts Disease).

I live in Southern WV which has an enormous amount of retired miners. This ruling could be financial ruin for the community.

I feel that Patriot was formed to fail by absorbing all liabilities from two of the largest coal producers in the country{ Arch Coal and Peabody Coal}. Business analysts have said that coal exports will increase substantially by the beginning of this year and for the next several years.

As an American worker, I grew up believing that hard work and honesty would be rewarded as promised. I pray for your understanding in making your decision.

Thank you for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,



Paul Epling  
UMWA Local 2286

Paul Epling  
PO Box 204  
Lake, WV 25121

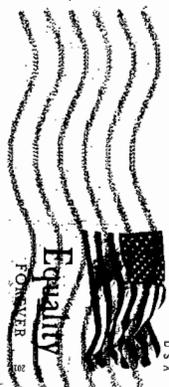
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102

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Re: Case No. 12-51502  
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