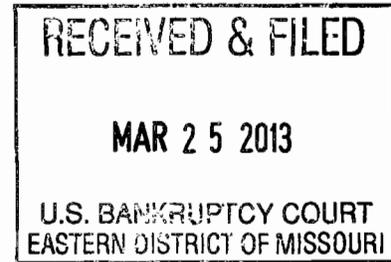


Patricia Ann Kelly
4339 State Route 127
Pinckneyville, Il. 62274

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, Mo. 63102
RE: Case No. 12-51502



Your Honor;

I was one of the coal miner's wives in the courtroom Monday to hear why Patriot Coal needed to spend \$6.9 million to reward or retain their upper level management team members.

We are from a small community in Southern Illinois. We don't have to live on hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to be happy. We have a descent life, safe and secure, with the pension, social security, and what we have saved on our meager wages, with our healthcare and medicine that my husband worked for.

If Patriot Coal is successful in dumping the benefits that was promised in previous contracts, our lives will change. Our friends, other miners, their wives... so many older people that cannot go back to work, cannot find reasonable priced insurance and pharmacy plans, will suffer. The pension plan for miners has been very poor when retiring from previous contracts with the cost of living raising to today's levels. The medical plan, our promised healthcare, was the saving grace for retirement. This has been a part of each miners retirement plan. Without it, what will we do? What can we do? Are we to suffer without medical care and prescription care while Peabody, Arch, and Patriot Coal executives live lavish lives? (I see the lifestyle of Irl Englehardt in my community.) My husband and I are not old enough for Medicare. This is our primary insurance. We cannot afford to pay our Social Security check to have insurance. What will we live on? How will we pay our utility bills and taxes? Food? Car and home insurance? Basics for life? Are we not entitled to have a lifestyle without financial burdens of our healthcare as we planned on? As we were promised in our contracts with the BCOA. It is devastating blow to my family, our friends that will be affected, and our small community.

I understand your job is to help Patriot Coal succeed financially. I cannot understand any company purchasing such an enormous debt without planning ahead. I have heard that the company executives, such a former CEO Irl Englehardt, from my hometown, boasted about the plan to get rid of the UMWA benefits. If this was in fact the plan, how can anyone reward the deception with bonuses? Or restructuring of their debts to take advantage of people that happed to work at mines with UMWA membership? We are people, families, neighbors. We are united in a cause and lucky to be Union to have someone speak for us. If we were not union, who would speak for us? We are not radical. We are not pushy. We are the peaceful middle class American asking to not be tossed aside by a large corporation. Not to be thrown into poverty by others' greed.

I will pray for you with such an important decision to make. And I trust that when you consider all, you think about each of us that will suffer, as a person first. Twenty-two thousand of us. All UMWA members in one voice. And decide if this was a scam to rid Patriot of the burden of our promised benefits at our expense and bust another union so people cannot stand together to protect their rights.

I sincerely submit this letter for consideration as a middle class American concerned for our country, our government, our economy, our faith, and our people.

Sincerely Yours,

Patricia Kelly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Ann Kelly".

