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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

To The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States

My husband Jim started at Peabody Mine #10 in Oct. 1959—the same month he was 20 years old. He worked there till June of 1996. He was the second in seniority for a union man at that time.

The mine had been closed and he was working the reclamation up to the time it was sold.

We were married June 1961 and have 6 children.

We never had a lot of money and never expected too. We bought an old house & fixed it up in 1967 & still live in it today. We learned to live with what we had.

We were always grateful for our health insurance. There was a strike in 1977-1978 & we did not have health insurance—so we realize what's it's like... I was pregnate with our 6th child. We tried to buy health insurance & some companies would not write coal miners because there occupation was considered too dangerous. Others cost too much. We did buy some health insurance through Western Catholic Union... We never had to use it.

My husband is 73 and I'm 71 so we are on medicare. When I see our statements for medical and prescriptions there are many times when the mine doesn't pay anything. I can't figure out why they want to take away health insurance from retirees on medicare.

We also need the mine pension. It's only a little over \$1,000.00 a month... and in my husband's case that was for 37 1/2 years of service. He worked for Peabody Mine #10 all

those years... no one else and it was always called Peabody. Now they change the name to PATRIOT... Patriot means a person who loves his or her country + supports it's interests and policies. I don't think this describes how we are being treated as retirees of Peabody Coal.

Instead I think the name should have been TRAITOR meaning one who betrays one's country, a cause or a trust.

TRAITOR really describes what is being threatened to Peabody coal miners that are retired. They earned their pensions + health insurance + now they are being told that it is going to be taken away... But at the same time they are asking the courts if they can give their executives large amounts of money.

In the past the Coal Commission and the Coal Act already addressed this issue. The underlying recommendation was that every company should pay for it's own retirees.

It was the intention of Peabody when it came up with Patriot to dump their responsibilities to their retirees. Please don't let them get away with this. We really need our Pension and our Health Insurance.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely
Mary Ann Nemecek



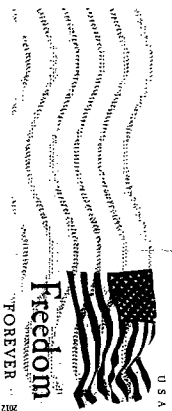


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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
OF MISSOURI
The Honorable ~~ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI~~ KATHY A. SURRATT - STATES

Re: CASE # 12-51502

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