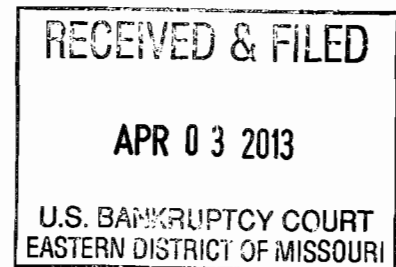


The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102



Honorable Judge Surratt-States:

I am writing a letter that should have been written months ago. Being one of thousands who are directly affected by the Patriot Coal bankruptcy, I am extremely worried.

My husband Rex is 60 years of age. He retired from Sharples Coal at Sharples WV in 1999. I believe that the company that last owned the Sharples operations was Arch Coal. It changed hands many times during the 25 years that he labored there, but he NEVER worked for Patriot Coal.

I am 58 years of age. I work part-time and am offered no health or retirement benefits through my employer, but I hope to draw Social Security when the time comes.

Rex and I both have health issues which require that we take medications daily. These medications are very costly, but they are necessary!

In 2008 I began having serious medical problems. The excruciating pain that I was experiencing turned out to be caused by a large tumor behind my right kidney. I underwent major surgery to have the tumor removed. The biopsy showed that the tumor was malignant and my surgeon and oncologist told me that it would come back.

In March of 2010 I had to have an operation to remove another mass from the same area of my body, and it was also malignant. The third surgery in August of 2011 was the most serious of all. Indeed the cancer had returned and the mass was so large it had damaged my right kidney so severely that the kidney had to be removed since it was no longer functioning.

Having seen numerous physicians in the past four and a half years, the costs have been astronomical. Thank God my insurance covered these costs! Without insurance, my husband and I would be deep in debt or possibly would have had to file bankruptcy.

My family doctor referred me to oncology specialists in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for a second opinion because nodules were seen in my lungs. As I write this letter I am preparing for my next appointment with the doctors at the cancer clinic in Pittsburgh. The nodules in my lungs are now larger, and there are more of them. Surgery and chemo therapy are a very real possibility.

There are only a few people who are aware of my condition. I am a VERY private person, but because of the fear of losing my health care I am willing to risk my plight being made public.

I pray that God spares my life to see my children established, and that I will be allowed the privilege of watching my grandchildren grow.

With all the health problems that I have, I must have constant and close medical supervision. Doctor visits, lab work, CT/PET scans, hospital admissions and surgeries will be a reality for me for the rest of my life. To be financially capable of paying for all of that would I would need to be wealthy. My husband and I are NOT wealthy. We are honest, hard-working people who live up to our moral and financial obligations. Patriot Coal should have to do the same!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christa D. Bias". The script is cursive and fluid.

Christa D. Bias
P. O. Box 121
Sharples WV 25183

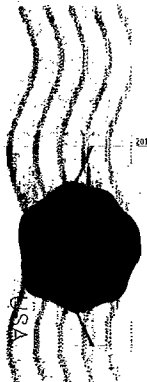


Ms. Christa Bias
PO Box 121
Sharples, WV 25183

RECEIVED + FILED
2013 APR -3 AM 10:39
CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

The Honorable Kathy A. Sumatt - States
RE: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas J. Bagleton & S. Crutcher
111 South 10th St, 4th Floor
St Louis MO 63102

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