



The Honorable Kelly C. Chapman,

My name is Bobby Mullins. I'm writing concerning the bankruptcy case you have before you concerning Patriot Coal Corporation. I worked for Eastern Coal, which became Peabody Coal, which became Patriot Coal since Feb. 1981. I retired for health reasons in May of 2011. I have extensive arthritis and will be having hip replacement surgery soon. This past April I underwent quadruple heart by-pass surgery that developed complications which kept me in the hospital for 16 days. My health care benefits that I earned from Patriot probably saved my life. I had 95% blockage of the main artery going to my heart that was found through pretty intensive medical testing that probably would not have happened had I not had health care coverage. My recovery will necessitate medication and regular checkups as well as dealing with the arthritis and the complications from that. If I am to have any kind of life at all I need that medical card that I spent 30 years working with the expectation that it would be there when I retire, as the company promised in contract after contract. I worked as long as I was able and now I have to deal with the affects of aging and working in an occupation that put a lot of

extra strain on my health. The health benefits because of our work was the reason we accepted contract after contract with little monetary gain. We need the medical coverage. And our comparative small pension. My prayer is that you will make a fair decision and I think you will. I wanted to try and let you know how important our health care is for me and all my fellow co-miners who gave so much to get it. Thank you for reading this. God bless.

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