



Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
State of West Virginia

Office of the Secretary of State
Building 1, Suite 157-K
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.
Charleston, WV 25305

Telephone: (304) 558-6000
Toll-Free: 1-866-SOS-VOTE
Fax: (304) 558-0900
www.wvsos.com

April 1, 2013

Mr. Michael M. Scharf
Chairman
Patriot Coal Corporation
12312 Olive Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63141-6448

Dear Mr. Scharf,

For the past several months, I have been following closely the news regarding Patriot Coal Corporation's bankruptcy filing. I fully understand the need to reorganize so that you may emerge a more competitive company, but I am deeply concerned of the impact this bankruptcy may have on thousands of West Virginia employees, retirees, and their families.

For more than 100 years, West Virginians have worked hard to make the coal industry the backbone of American energy production. Generations of West Virginians can take pride in knowing that they put in an honest day's work and received an honest day's wage. While they were working, and all too often sacrificing their health, these miners counted on a retirement with dignity – and the lifetime health care they were promised.

It is extremely troubling that Patriot plans to substantially reduce health care and pension benefits for retirees as possible sources of savings as it moves through the bankruptcy process. After years of hard work and promises, it is very disturbing to me that the company would turn its back on these retirees and their dependents.

I hope that, as you closely examine the conditions of this bankruptcy proceeding, you will keep your promise and fully fund healthcare benefits and pensions. I especially hope you will honor these healthcare benefits and pensions because it is the right thing to do, and not just because they were agreed to in a contract.

If "Coal is West Virginia," then "West Virginia is Coal Miners." I urge you to keep your promise to the men and women who for so many years helped build your company and kept our economy going.

Thank you for your attention in this matter, and if I can be helpful in this situation please let me know.

Sincerely,

Natalie E. Tennant
West Virginia Secretary of State