

March 1st, 1916.

Mr. Henry Bentley, Atty.,
Union Trust Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Bentley:

It is conceived by our clients and ourselves that it is most desirable and that the matter can be handled more rapidly by having an adjudication of bankruptcy of The Big Sandy Consolidated Fuel Company. There is one creditor here who has practically the requisite amount, but we are lacking in the number of creditors.

Mr. Combs gave us the information that you would probably want to see the Company put into bankruptcy, and I am writing you to ascertain whether or not your clients would be willing to join in the bankruptcy proceeding against this Company. Of course, I understand that you do not have a provable debt, such as is necessary to join in the petition, but it occurs to us that the amount of your debt is probably in excess of the security held by you, and, to the extent of the excess, you would, of course, have a provable claim. If I recall correctly the highest value placed by you in your opinion on the machinery was about \$1500.00; therefore to the extent of \$500.00 at least, you would have a provable claim. Our clients here are willing to take care of all the costs and advancements necessary to be made in the matter, should your clients be willing to join in the petition with us. Should they do so, kindly indicate the amount which you think should be stated as the variance between the value of your security and the amount of your debt, and we will prepare the petition, have the same verified by the local creditors here and then forward the same down to you for signature by yourself or The Goodman Manufacturing Company for verification as to them either by an officer there or by yourself as their Attorney, and then ask you to send the same over to Mr. Menzies at Covington for filing.

I am free to say that this seems to us to be the most effective way of reaching and getting some quick and final settlement of the matter. In this connection I wish to advise that the further we go into the matter of the creditors' claims of preferred liens as against each of us, the more convinced we are that they are without merit, and that we will be able to avoid any liens whatever of the employes, except that created by the levy of the attachment.

Yours very truly,