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Stephen J. Savitsky
President

February 2, 2010

Ms. Stephanie Rose
United States Attorney
Northern District of Iowa
Hach Building
401 First Street, SE
Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1825

Dear Ms. Rose:

I am writing on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (OU). On January 8, the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Southern District of Iowa Judge Linda Reade's decision to deny Mr. Sholom Rubashkin bail, pending sentencing. The OU takes no position with respect to Mr. Rubashkin's innocence or guilt, however, we are significantly perturbed by the decision to deny bail for Mr. Rubashkin.

Mr. Rubashkin is the father of ten children, including a 16 year old autistic child that needs his father. Notwithstanding Mr. Rubashkin's conviction and the crimes he allegedly committed, he clearly does not pose any threat to society. Mr. Rubashkin fully complied with all the requirements that federal law enforcement authorities imposed on him prior to his trial. He is willing to post bail, and with the advent of sophisticated monitoring devices, it ought to be relatively simple to monitor Mr. Rubashkin's whereabouts pending sentencing. Accordingly, we believe that a small measure of compassion is appropriate and the proper course of action is to provide Mr. Rubashkin with the opportunity to post bail. Ms. Rose we urge you that you personally review the denial of bail for Mr. Rubashkin and determine if this overzealousness treats Mr. Rubashkin unjustly.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Savitsky

