



Alan Grayson
Congress of the United States
8th District, Florida

October 22, 2010

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 5111
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder,

Thank you for your leadership and continued service to our nation. I write regarding the criminal prosecution of Sholom Rubashkin, the former manager of the Agriprocessors kosher meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa. While I agree Mr. Rubashkin must pay his debt to society for the crimes he has committed, I call on the Department of Justice to review the sentencing recommendation that was rendered in this case.

As you know, in May 2008, Mr. Rubashkin was arrested for immigration law violations at the Agriprocessor's plant. While the initial charges were dismissed by the government, Mr. Rubashkin was ultimately tried and found guilty of bank fraud and related white-collar crimes in November 2009. Recently, in June 2010, he was sentenced to 27 years in prison—two years beyond the government sentencing recommendation.

Mr. Rubashkin's 27-year sentence raises a number of concerns for me, not only because he is a first-time offender but more because of Mr. Rubashkin's age. Ultimately, Mr. Rubashkin is 51 years old, and a 27 year sentence amounts to life in prison. This sentence has been criticized by former attorney generals and U.S. attorneys, lawyers, law scholars and fellow colleagues from the U.S. House of Representatives for being excessive. Prior requests by Members of Congress to the U.S. Department of Justice calling for a review of allegations of ex parte discussions in this case by the federal judge with the U.S. Attorney's Office and immigration officials prior to the 2008 raid have fallen on deaf ears.

Controversy has enveloped this case—particularly the sentencing decision for Mr. Rubashkin, therefore, I respectfully request a full review of this case. Mr. Holder, if the integrity of a case is called into question, it is imperative for us to be just in the rule and execution of the law. I know you share this belief, and look forward to working with you on this important case.

Thank you for your attention and prompt consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Grayson".

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress