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MIKE QUIGLEY
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
5TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS AND COMPETITION POLICY
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
ORGANIZATION, AND PROCUREMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

December 13, 2010

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I am writing to echo the concerns of many former Attorney Generals, US Attorneys, and senior Justice Department officials regarding the questionable circumstances surrounding the criminal prosecution and conviction of Sholom Rubashkin, the former manager of the Agriprocessors, the largest kosher meatpacking plant in the United States.

My concerns arise from case documents that suggest improper ex-parte communications. Documents indicate that the federal judge assigned to the case-the Honorable Linda Reade of the Northern District of Iowa-was repeatedly consulted by officials from the U.S. Attorney's Office during the months leading up to the raid on the kosher meatpacking plant, and further, that she offered to "help in any way possible" with preparations for the raid. If these contacts were in fact hidden from the defendant, the defendant would have been prevented from making a motion for recusal, giving rise to serious due process concerns and tainting the ultimate decision of the case.

Additionally, some judicial observers have posited that Mr. Rubashkin's sentence was excessive for the crimes committed.

I know that you are deeply committed to ensuring that all federal prosecutions are conducted in a fair and even-handed manner. Therefore, I request that you formally inquire into the adjudication of Mr. Rubashkin's case and the possible occurrence of judicial improprieties. I urge you to give these concerns your full and fair consideration.

Please keep me informed of developments in this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress