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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

STEVE ISRAEL

Second District, New York

December 2, 2010

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2457 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-3335
FAX: (202) 225-4669

DISTRICT OFFICE:
150 MOTOR PARKWAY, SUITE 108
HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788
PHONE: (631) 951-2210
PHONE: (516) 505-1448
FAX: (631) 951-3308

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 511
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: *U.S. v. Rubashkin*, Case No. 2:08-cr-01324-LRR

Dear Attorney General Holder,

I am writing to you regarding possible judicial misconduct in the case of *U.S. v. Rubashkin* (Case No. 2:08-cr-01324-LRR). I have met recently with a number of my constituents who have expressed grave concerns about the handling of this case by the Honorable Linda R. Reade, Chief Judge of the United States District Court in the Northern District of Iowa.

As you may know, Sholom Rubashkin, former CEO of Agriprocessors, the largest kosher meatpacking plant in the United States, was found guilty on 86 counts of bank fraud and related charges in November 2009 after a large raid on the Agriprocessors plant in Iowa in May 2008. My chief concern in this case relates to the fact that Judge Reade was involved in the planning of this raid and participated in the preparations for a number of months. Given Judge Reade's prior involvement with this case, it appears improper that she was later involved in the adjudication in this trial.

I am also worried about the lengthy sentence given to Mr. Rubashkin. The prosecutors in the case only recommended that he serve 25 years in prison yet he was sentenced to serve 27 years. As a first-time non-violent offender, this sentence appears to be extremely harsh.

Thank you for looking into the details of this troublesome case. I appreciate all that you do to uphold the laws of the United States and ask that you give the facts of this case full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Israel".

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress