

TIM MURPHY  
18TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 24, 2010

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

IN RE: US v Rubashkin, Case No. 2:08-cr-01324-LRR (ND IA)

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I call your attention to concerns about the recent prosecution and conviction of Sholom Rubashkin, a former chief executive officer of the defunct Agriprocessors, the largest kosher meatpacking plant in the United States. In November 2009, after being convicted of 86 counts of financial fraud, Mr. Rubashkin was sentenced to 27 years imprisonment by Judge Linda Reade.

The federal investigation into Mr. Rubashkin's financial dealings began after a May 2008 workplace raid that netted 389 illegal aliens. Prior to that operation, agents from several federal departments met with Judge Reade, who claims the meetings were necessary to provide "logistical cooperation" for purposes of expediting the processing of arrested undocumented immigrants. Information about this meeting was not presented to defense attorneys who allege impropriety, and suggest that the judge should have recused herself from the trial. Questions have been raised about the extent of the collaboration between Judge Reade and federal agents, and whether the judge and prosecutors acted fairly and honestly.

Moreover, some judicial observers have suggested that Mr. Rubashkin's sentence was overly disproportionate for the crimes committed.

Transparency is the lynchpin of our judicial system. I know that you agree that the integrity of judges and prosecutors is sacrosanct, and trust that you will consider whether the decisions made by judges and prosecutors rise to the level of misconduct worthy of an investigation by your department. I urge you to give such concerns your full and fair consideration. Please keep me informed of developments in this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" being particularly prominent.

Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress

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