
September 23, 2009

American Jewish
World Service
AVODAH, the Jewish
Service Corps
Hazon
Hebrew Immigrant Aid
Society
Jewish Alliance for
Law and Social Action
Jewish Community
Action
Jewish Community
Relations Council of
Greater Boston
Jewish Council for
Public Affairs
Jewish Council on
Urban Affairs
Jewish Labor
Committee
Jews United for
Justice
National Council of
Jewish Women
Progressive Jewish
Alliance
Uri L' Tzedek
Workmen's Circle/
Arbiter Ring

Mr. Daniel Hirsch, President
SHF Industries
Agri Star Meat & Poultry, LLC
220 N. West St.
P.O. Box 920
Postville, Iowa 52162

Dear Mr. Hirsch,

On behalf of the members of our organizations, we congratulate you as you assume leadership of SHF Industries and Agri Star Meat & Poultry, taking over the production of the former Agriprocessors plant.

As you know, the past 16 months have been difficult for all current and former plant employees and their families as well as for the entire community of Postville.

With your new leadership, the community has an opportunity to heal.

As Jewish leaders we have been especially grieved by the past alleged acts of worker abuses, most disturbing of which was the apparent disregard of our commandments that "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he be of your brothers, or of foreigners who are in your land within your gates" (Deuteronomy 24:14). In addition, the actions at the plant resulted in tensions within Postville's diverse community, an unhealthy situation for all.

As we reflect and put the past behind us, we are collectively cognizant of the importance of the new beginning in Postville...the beginning that you are leading. Many will be watching closely for important signs of this new beginning, literally and figuratively, even as we begin our New Year. The forming of the Postville Community Benefits Alliance and, hopefully, your collaboration with them represents an important opportunity to begin anew. Their leadership represents some of the town's most active citizen leaders and trusted allies.

(continued)

We urge you to meet with the alliance and form a partnership to create an agreement and working environment that will ensure the health and prosperity of the plant, its work force and the town of Postville.

Sincerely,



Jane Ramsey
Executive Director, JCUA

Vic Rosenthal
Executive Director, JCA

On Behalf Of...

Ruth Messinger, *President*
American Jewish World Service

David Rosenn, *Executive Director*
AVODAH, the Jewish Service Corps

Nigel Savage, *Executive Director*
Hazon

Gideon Aronoff, *Executive Director*
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

Sheila Decter, *Executive Director*
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action

Nancy Kaufman, *Executive Director*
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston

Steve Gutow, *Executive Director*
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Sybil Sanchez, *Executive Director*
Jewish Labor Committee

Jacob Feinspan, *Executive Director*
Jews United for Justice

Nancy Ratzan, *President*
National Council of Jewish Women

Elissa Barrett, *Executive Director*
Progressive Jewish Alliance

Ari Hart / Shmuly Yanklowitz, *Co - Directors*
Uri L' Tzedek

Ann Toback, *Executive Director*
Workmen's Circle/ Arbiter Ring

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309

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820 DAVIS STREET, SUITE 105
EVANSTON, IL 60201
Telephone: 847-328-3409
Fax: 847-328-3425

September 23, 2009

Mr. Daniel Hirsch, President
SHF Industries
c/o Favorite Plastics
1465 Utica Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Mr. Hirsch,

I understand that you have taken over production of the Agriprocessors Kosher Meatpacking Plant in Postville, Iowa. As a Jewish Member of Congress, I have closely followed the developments at the plant including the poor working conditions, unethical treatment of animals, and of course the May 2008 ICE raid on the plant that broke apart families and severely hurt the local economy. I hope that you will make this a successful operation and one that becomes a model in dealing fairly with its workers and the surrounding community.

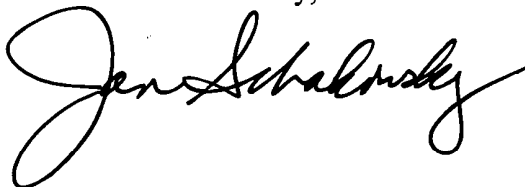
There is now the opportunity to usher in a new image for kosher meat production in Postville, free from violations of U.S. and Jewish Law, and to create a mutually beneficial and transparent working relationship with the residents of Northeast Iowa.

I understand that Postville business, civic, and community leaders are ready to take steps to ensure that your success happens in accordance with human and labor rights. I strongly encourage you to meet with the Postville Community Benefits Alliance, which includes many of these community leaders, so that you can work together to ensure a prosperous future for the plant and the town.

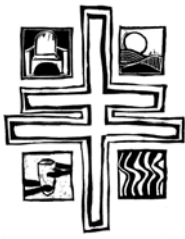
Again, I write with the hope that you will create a new working environment, a new relationship with town leaders, a new level of consumer trust and loyalty, and a new, bright future for SHF Industries.

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions, needs or ideas of how we can assist your efforts to produce what we hope are some of the finest kosher meat products in the nation.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta Ave. • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (563) 556-2580

September 4, 2009

Mr. Daniel Hirsch, President
SHF Industries
c/o Favorite Plastics
1465 Utica Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Dear Mr. Hirsch,

As Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dubuque, which includes the town of Postville, I welcome you and SHF Industries to the state of Iowa and wish you well as you take over the ownership and operations of the former Agriprocessors Kosher Meatpacking Plant.

The Postville Community Benefits Alliance has been formed and can be a very positive step to promote healing for the entire Postville community. Key staff at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Postville includes Deacon Patrick Malanaphy, Paul Rael, and Rev. Paul Ouderkirk.

I believe that it is important that as many people as possible, collaborate with the Postville Community Alliance in order to provide an environment that promotes the health and prosperity of the plant, its work force and the town of Postville.

My hope is that you may have success in your business. My prayers and support for the people of Postville continue.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Jerome Hanus, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque



NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Office of the Bishop
201 20th Street SW, P.O. Box 804, Waverly, Iowa 50677-0804 319/352-1414 FAX 319/352-1416

August 31, 2009

Mr. Daniel Hirsch, President
SHF Industries
c/o Favorite Plastics
1465 Utica Ave.
Brooklyn NY 11234

Dear Mr. Hirsch,

Welcome to Postville! As a 1971 graduate of Postville High School and the bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, I am particularly grateful for your decision to restore the meatpacking plant in my hometown.

The Postville Community Benefits Alliance has been formed out of the great pain that this small town has experienced over the past several years. Our pastoral presence on the Alliance is the Rev. Stephen Brackett who is serving St. Paul Lutheran and the surrounding community. He is a person of integrity, understanding and knowledge. I am writing to introduce him and the Alliance to you with the hope that conversations can take place early on for the mutual upbuilding of your business and the community.

I wish you every success and will include that petition with my prayers of gratitude for your role in the restoration of this town.

Gratefully,

The Rev. Dr. Steven L. Ullestad
Bishop