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American Jewish World
Service

AVODAH, the Jewish
Service Corps

Hazon

Hebrew Immigrant Aid
Society

Jewish Alliance for Law
and Social Action

Jewish Community
Relations Council of
Greater Boston

Jewish Council for
Public Affairs

Jewish Labor
Committee

Jews United for Justice

Progressive Jewish
Alliance

Uri L' Tzedek

Workmen's Circle/
Arbiter Ring

September 23, 2009

Mr. Daniel Hirsch, President
SHF Industries
Agri Star Meat & Poultry, LLC
Postville, Iowa

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.

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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*
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