United Poultry Concerns, Inc.

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August 3, 2026

Rabbi Etan Tokayer, President
Rabbi Menachem Penner, Executive Vice President
Rabbinical Council of America
305 Seventh Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Dear Rabbi Etan Tokayer and Rabbi Menachem Penner,

On behalf of the Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos, a project of United Poultry Concerns, we respectfully urge the Rabbinical Council of America to encourage the use of money rather than live chickens for kaporos.

We do not oppose kaporos itself, only the use of live chickens. The severe suffering associated with the transport, handling, confinement, and slaughter of chickens used in kaporos is well documented and, we believe, impossible to reconcile with the Torah-based principle of *Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim* (causing unnecessary pain to living creatures). In addition, gathering and handling live birds poses public health risks, including potential exposure to avian influenza and salmonella.

The use of money instead of live chickens is a recognized alternative within Jewish tradition. This alternative maintains the spiritual intent of kaporos—*teshuvah* and *tzedakah*—while allowing charitable funds to directly support people in need. To align with Jewish values, we urge you to exercise compassionate leadership by encouraging your member rabbis and affiliated congregations to promote the use of money instead of live chickens for kaporos.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you personally at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Liqin Cao
President