



National Council of Young Israel  
111 John Street  
New York, NY 10038

August 26, 2013

Steven A. Rakitt, Chief Executive Officer  
The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington  
6101 Montrose Road  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Rackitt:

As an organization dedicated to promoting public pride in Jewish heritage and the modern Jewish civilization, and solidifying the strong affinity of the Washington Jewish community with our brothers and sisters in the State of Israel, the Greater Washington Jewish Federation has been instrumental in furthering Jewish culture since its inception.

As an active member of the Washington Jewish community and as chairman of a national organization that represents approximately 26,000 Jewish families, I am dismayed at the financial support that that the Federation is providing to Theatre J to subsidize the production of *The Admission*, a play written by Motti Lerner. The play is scheduled for performance, March 20 – April 27. As you may be aware, the play reflects a neo-anti-Israeli perspective, which is contrary to the mission of the Federation. The climatic scene of play implies a fictitious 1948 massacre conducted by a colonel in the Israeli defense brigade. You may not be aware that many of Mr. Lerner's dramas are not performed in Israel due to their harmful message. Regrettably, Theater J is not concerned about the negative message; moreover, this is not the first time that the Greater Washington Federation has lent aid to Theater J-produced plays that advance an anti-Israel point of view.

While I fully appreciate freedom of expression and the right of Mr. Lerner to promote his political agenda, such an expression should not be financed by Federation contributors. Such financial support runs counter to the interests of your constituency and runs afoul of the Federation's long-standing desire to affirm a strong commitment to the State of Israel and world Jewry. Artists who denigrate the Jewish State or its citizens should not be supported by the Federation.

I respectfully request that greater care be given to the selection of Federation beneficiaries and support endeavors that promote Israel, rather than demean it.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Levi  
Chairman of the Board  
National Council of Young Israel