



Gitanas Nausėda
The President
The Republic of Lithuania
S.Daukanto a. 3
Vilnius, Lithuania LT-01122

October 12, 2020

Honorable President Gitanas Nausėda,

The New York Board of Rabbis, established in 1881, serves as the primary forum for rabbis serving congregations, organizations, chaplaincies, communal service agencies, and schools.

Our Mission begins with the statement that we strive to “Work for the communal good of the Jewish people”, and it is keeping with this goal that we write.

The Dignity of the Dead and the Sanctity of Cemeteries are cardinal beliefs of the Jewish people; any incursion, digging, any excavation in a Jewish cemetery is a transgression which defiles it.

The Snipiskes Jewish cemetery in Vilnius houses the remains of renowned scholars, the family of the Gaon, ancestors of many congregants whom our member rabbis serve, and thousands of other pious Jews. The cemetery is sacred, and should remain untouched. Nobody has the right to sanction any disturbance to the integrity of this cemetery.

The proposed Sports Palace project will desecrate the cemetery and profane the dead, and in the name of all member Rabbis of our organization we ask respectfully but unequivocally that all activity in this consecrated domain cease.

Respectfully,



Rabbi Joseph Potasnik
Executive Vice President