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Holland, Jill

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To: FSIS.regulations@FSIS.USDA.gov

Subject: Docket No. 03-0251F

Dear Secretary Ann Veneman,

I just wanted to give you my my most heart-felt thanks for banning the slaughter of downed cows for human consumption. The risk of consuming a potentially sick animal certainly outweighs any benefit to the industry or the consumer. Please do all that you can to hold the line against weakening changes and maintain the USDA's interpretation of downer animals -- which includes all animals that are unable to stand or walk regardless of the reason. I urge you to extend the ban to also cover other species of downed animals. And last but definitely not least: I urge you to require humane euthanasia of these animals (such as that provided to the calves of the sick cow in Washington State).

My sincerest thank you,
Jill Holland
Cabin John, MD