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February 15, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket 03-025IF  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300 12<sup>th</sup> and C Street SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a concerned citizen writing to urge the USDA to retain the prohibition on the slaughter of downed cattle for human food that was passed on December 30, 2003.

It is important that this prohibition be retained in order to protect against mad cow disease, as well as to avoid the unnecessary suffering of sick animals. In addition, I urge the USDA to not only retain the prohibition, but to expand it to downed animals of other species, such as sheep and pigs.

Please hear my plea and keep it under consideration when agribusiness companies and their allies are lobbying the USDA in Washington, DC. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Zellhart