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Amy McBride  
515 Caleb Avenue  
Apartment #2  
Syracuse, NY 13206  
315.437.1201  
[whiskersnpurrs@respectanimals.com](mailto:whiskersnpurrs@respectanimals.com)

March 2, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket 03-025IF  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300 12th and C Street SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Fax: 202-690-0486  
[FSIS.Regulations@usda.gov](mailto:FSIS.Regulations@usda.gov)

REF: USDA Downed Animal Ban

On December 30, 2003, the USDA implemented several measures to address public concern over the discovery of "mad cow disease" in the United States, including a ban on the slaughter of downed cattle - animals too sick to stand - for human food. I am alarmed that agribusiness and their legislative allies in Washington, DC are now lobbying the USDA to lift the downer ban.

I urge the USDA to retain their ban on downer cows, and urge the agency to expand the ban on downers to include other species, such as sheep and pigs. I am extremely concerned about the irresponsible and inhumane marketing and slaughter of downed animals.

The recent downed cow ban represents a long overdue policy shift, and it is imperative that it be maintained and expanded.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Amy McBride

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