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TO: FSIS Docket Clerk
 Docket 03-025IF
 Room 102, Cotton Annex
 300 12th & C Street S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

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 FSIS DOCKET ROOM
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3-16-04

I was very unhappy & concerned that the USDA's recent ban on the slaughter of downed animals might be in jeopardy due to the lobbying efforts of agribusiness.

I am writing you to urge you to please not lift this ban for the following reasons:

- it is unhealthy and potentially dangerous ~~to~~ to slaughter these sick & injured animals for human consumption
- the selling and slaughtering of these animals is extremely cruel and irresponsible and should not be allowed
- these archaic practices should not be tolerated and it is up to our government to take a stand on this very important issue. Consumers rely on our government to protect us.

Finally, I hope the USDA will give thoughtful consideration to this issue and my request. There is a lot at stake.

Sincerely,
 Rita Bonasera