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March 18, 2004

Dear FSIS Docket Clerk:

I was appalled to learn that downed animals were sold for our meat consumption. These sick, diseased and injured animals are ending up on dinner plates across the nation and that sickens me. Not only is there great concern for public safety but the fact that these animals are suffering tremendously for that almighty dollar distresses me even more.

I strongly supported the USDA proposed rule to prohibit downer cattle in our food supply and that they were required to be humanely euthanized. Now, the agribusiness industry, worried only about the money in their pocket, not the concern of our citizens or the animals they profit from, are rallying together to destroy this ban on downed animals.

I am urging that you please keep the "no downer" policy in place and that you consider banning all downed animals for human consumption such as pigs, sheep, goats, equine etc. Not only do I not want my family's diet to consist of diseased and sick animals, but there is absolutely no reason for these animals to be treated in such a horrendous way.

In today's society, profit should never mean sacrificing our morals to the extent that we allow others to suffer at great lengths so that we can put a dollar in our pocket! We, as humans, should set the standard to lessen, not increase, the suffering of those who cannot speak for themselves.

I appreciate your time and serious consideration for this extremely important matter that effects us all.

Patricia Hull  
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Docket 03-0251 F  
Room 102, Cotton Annex