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East Aurora, NY 14052
January 28, 2004

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03-025IF-67
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Tracey Brown-Cashdollar

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

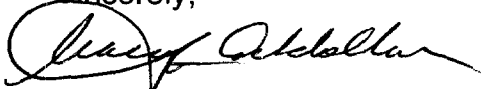
To FSIS Docket Clerk:

I would like to commend the USDA for banning the slaughter of downed cattle for human food products. **I feel the ban needs to be made permanent and include all downed animals, not just cattle, to be truly effective in protecting human health.**

In addition, reports have commented on the problem of what to do with the 200,000 or so downed animals going through the system each year. Cost, space, and who is ultimately responsible for killing and disposing of these animals appear to be the main areas of concern. I believe the humane euthanasia of these animals at the point they become downers should be the first priority of whoever is finally deemed responsible. I urge the USDA to require that all downer animals be humanely euthanized

Public support of legislative initiatives calling for humane treatment of food production animals has grown increasingly strong as the public learns the horrors of factory farming. I ask that the USDA respect the public's concern for the treatment of animals and ensure humane euthanasia is required and enforced.

Sincerely,



Tracey Brown-Cashdollar