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February 4, 2004

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

03-025IF-78
03-025IF
Krista Hughes

Dear Secretary Veneman:

I am writing to urge you not to weaken the definition of downed animals. Any animal that is disabled and unable to stand or walk, regardless of why (injury, illness or both), should not be considered for human consumption and should be immediately humanely euthanized.

I would also like to ask that the ban cover all species of downed animals including sheep, sheep, goats, pigs, and other livestock.

I appreciate your time, and concern for the well-being of consumers and the treatment of animals.

Sincerely,



Krista Hughes