

February 23rd, 2001

U.S. Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
563 0 Fishers Lane, Room 106 I
Rockville, MD 20852

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To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing in regards to petition **98P-0151/CP1** which prohibits the slaughter of downed animals, and my support for this petition and your consideration to make sure this petition passes. The marketing of sick or injured animals, too weak to stand or walk, for human consumption is unacceptable. And yet right now that animal is allowed to become food, that is why this petition is so important.

It is **impossible** to move a sick or injured cow to slaughter humanely. Current methods such as the **use of** chains to drag them or forklifts which cause broken bones, bruises, broken necks and undue suffering. Have we as a society forgotten that these animals are giving their lives for our consumption and I'm not here to preach vegetarianism but if we are going to eat animals can't we let their lives end humanely, not **horrifically**. According to industry experts, the vast majority of animals who become "downers" can be prevented from becoming this, by more humane handling of animals. If we are not going to stop killing them for consumption can't we make their last hours and days with us, and their overall life with us comfortable, I don't think that would be too hard.

Removing the very market of downed animals will encourage the industry to implement more humane care of the living animals, thus solving the problem, provided all comply to the new laws. Considering "Downed" cows can be sick, and with the concern over such fatal diseases such as "mad cow disease", which is linked to CJD in humans (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease), shouldn't we be as **careful** as possible?

While I applaud your decision in no longer accepting ground beef that includes product **from non-**ambulatory cattle, for Federal programs such as the National School Lunch Program. More needs to be done, this decision should be within all slaughtering practices. This is the 21st Century, society should have more of a conscious towards others we share this **beautiful** Earth with. So please support the petition **98P-0151/CP1**, it is a step in the right direction, a step towards more humane practices.

I would like to Thank You for your valuable time and consideration in this matter, and would like to offer any support that I can provide in the future to the USDA in this matter,

Sincerely,

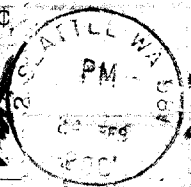


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