

May 8, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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Dear Sir/Madam:

SUBJECT: DOCKET NUMBER 98P-0151/CP1

I am writing to let you know of my concern for downed animals, animals who are too sick or injured to stand, even to access food or water. I am appalled about the marketing and slaughter of these animals and urge you to prohibit the use of "downed animals" in human food.

In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains – inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments. I am shocked and disgusted that the law allows for such diseased animals to be slaughtered and processed for human consumption.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% percent of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I urge you to grant the petition 98P-0151/CP1 prohibiting the slaughter of downed animals for human food.

Sincerely,



Shawna Clary
410 Vine Street
Euless, TX 76040

98P-0151

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