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February 23, 2001

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

To Whom It May Concern:

As an avid animal lover and advocate of animal rights, I have become a member of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and Farm Sanctuary. Through these relationships I have learned of the Administration's ability to grant petition 98P-0151/CPI prohibiting the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick even to stand pose a health threat and should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Humans have absolutely no right to inflict torture or death on any animal. Animals feel pain, fear and confusion just like we would if put in their place. They however, have no voice to cry out, no strength to break away, no laws to protect them.

We as a race must stop thinking that animals are here for our absolute use and abuse. Someday we may find ourselves in a position of having to explain and defend ourselves and our treatment of our fellow Earth creatures. I can hardly wait to hear this defense!!!

The passing of petition 98P-0151/CPI prohibiting the slaughter of downed animals should be a cause that you can stand behind with confidence because it is the right thing to do. As I write this letter, and you read it, these animals are maybe "praying" that some human in our huge human superstructure will miraculously appear to save them. Will you?

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, they are typically pushed with tractors or forklifts or dragged with chains. These practices cause abrasions, broken bones or internal injuries, and many animals are just left in the dirt to die. We simply do not have the right to do this, and we should by now be human enough to see the complete wrongness of what we are doing. No arm of the government, no department, no person, has the right to make any living thing suffer.

98P-0151

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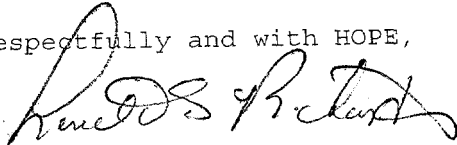
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Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. I am imploring you to do everything and anything that you can to put a stop to the inhumane treatment of these animals. Until we have laws that protect these innocents, it is for humanely minded people to fight for them. I hope I can somehow convince you that you should be part of this fight for you are in the best position to help them.

Someday, I pray that no animal will have to suffer at our hands. We have so much blood on them already.

Please stand up for them. Someone desperately needs to and I cannot do it alone.

Respectfully and with HOPE,



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RE:Docket 98P-0151/CPI Downed Animal Petition

20857-0001

