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February 17, 2001

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing you today to urge you to grant **petition 98P-0151/CP1** to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. There are several reasons that this petition is of grave importance and they include:

The difficulty of moving downed animals humanely. I understand that they are pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. The inhumanity of these processes is abominable and cannot be tolerated in a society that claims to be civilized.

Animals who are too sick to stand could pose a significant threat to the nation's health and should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Downed animals do not make up very much of the total number of animals slaughtered each day and, therefore, stopping their marketing will not cause undue economic hardship to the farmers of our country who struggle to survive themselves.

I urge you once again to grant this petition. How can we respect ourselves if we do not care for the weak and injured, whether farm animal or human?

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Nancy E. DiMattio

11 Western Lane
Amherst, MA 01002

98P-0151

C4080

Watts
Lester M.
West, MA
01002



U. S. Food & Drug Admin.
Market Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

