

925 West 11th Place
Mesa, AZ 85201-3117
February 2, 2001

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

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to grant petition docket number 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Besides posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, evidence exists that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE, a disease linked to the fatal human illness CJD. Downed animals 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. They comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered; prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Therefore, animals which are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

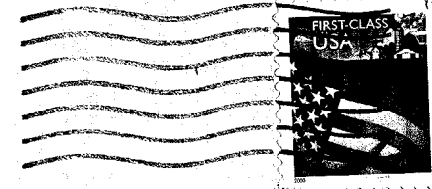

(Mrs.) Jan Peterson

cc

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98P-0151

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