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James P. Loughlin  
40 East 89th Street, Apt. 3D  
New York, N.Y. 10128

United States Department of Agriculture  
FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket 03-025IF  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300 12th and C Street,  
S.W. Washington D.C. 20250

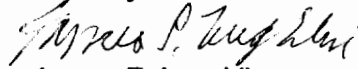
Dear Sirs:

I am writing you to strongly urge you to preserve the USDA ban on using downer cattle as a source of human food and to ask the USDA to expand this ban to include using downer cattle as a source of feed for other food animals as well as to include all downer animals, such as pigs and poultry, in the ban. Even though Mad Cow disease is spread, as far as we know, mostly through cattle, there remain many other diseases, such as avian flu, which are potentially very harmful to humans and animals alike and which may be spread by use of downers of other species as feed. Also the use of downers of any species as food often involves great suffering for the animals and thus is horribly cruel and inhumane.

Thus, as both a concerned consumer, and a humanitarian, I want to strongly urge that you both maintain and extend your current ban on the use of downer animals as a source of food and feed. There is no good reason why the american consumer should be subjected to the extra risk of disease by this barbaric practice. Also the use of downer animals is not in the long-term interest of the american agricultural industry since the practice tends to create bad public relations with the american public as well as damaging the reputation of our food safety abroad.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Yours:

  
James P. Loughlin.