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February 5, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-025IF
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th and C Street SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

RE: Docket Number 03-025IF

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with great enthusiasm to support the USDA's proposal to prohibit the use of downer cattle for human consumption and to require that these sentient animals be euthanized in a humane manner. I was extremely alarmed and disheartened to learn that these injured and seriously ill animals were being used for human consumption, and I believe that it is imperative that we put an end to these irresponsible practices once and for all.

Consequently, I strongly urge you to publish a final rule banning the use of all downed cattle for human consumption. In addition, I ask that you consider inclusion of all downed pigs, sheep, goats, and equine species in this ban. Just as downer cattle are more likely to have mad cow disease, downed sheep, pigs and other species are also likely to be afflicted with diseases such as scrapie or other neurological disorders.

Marketing and slaughtering downed animals for human food has negative consequences for humans and animals alike. These practices pose very real health risks to human beings and, in the process, they result in the excessively cruel treatment of already suffering animals. For these reasons alone, such risky and inhumane practices should be stopped immediately. Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this most important matter.

Cordially,



Natalie A. Bowman