

February 5, 2004

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Rob Gonzalez
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Davie, FL 33328

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

Secretary Ann Veneman:

I am writing to you concerning the banning of 'downed animals' for human consumption.

I applaud this ban on using downed animals in products for human consumption and feel that it was long overdue. This is a **very important** step in the slaughter house process for the benefit of both humans and animals! Banning **all** non-ambulatory animals from entering the food production process will *help* keep our food *safer* and will curb the rampant animal abuse that occurs in all slaughter houses!

I am concerned that certain special interest groups (ie. the corporate factory farms and slaughter houses) are attempting to weaken this ban on **all non-ambulatory** animals. This **total ban** on all downed animals is **ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL** to protecting our food supply and the 'food animals' themselves. There is no sure way to tell if a downed animal with a physical injury does not have BSE by visual inspection!

The **total ban of downed animals** is a terrific step but *only* if remains a **total ban!** Please remain steadfast in a complete ban on 'downers' and insist that these animals be **humanely euthanized!** This ban should also be extended to include **all** species of slaughter animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Rob Gonzalez