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February 10, 2004

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

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FSIS DOCKET ROOM
04 FEB 17 PM 4:39

Dear Secretary Veneman,

Thank you for your decision to ban the slaughter of downed animals, resulting in their meat being sold for human consumption. I must urge you to guarantee the ban is permanent and that it is meticulously enforced.

Some legislators, who speak for one segment of the meat industry, are proposing that animals with broken legs or other injuries can go to slaughter. This type of thinking is what allowed the cow in Washington State to be slaughtered and its meat to be put into the human food chain. Please **do not** allow the ~~reversal~~ of the downed animal ban. The humane euthanasia of ALL non-ambulatory cattle is necessary to protect the animals from unspeakable cruelty and to protect the public from bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

The downed animal ban and the humane euthanasia of sick animals should be extended to other species of animals – pigs, sheep, and other livestock

The incomprehensible cruelty inflicted on sick, downer cows must end, and the USDA must fulfill its responsibility to protect human lives by ensuring that the “mad cow” disease is not passed on through the human food chain. **NO MORE DOWNER COWS BEING DRAGGED, BULLDOZED, OR FORKLIFTED TO SLAUGHTER** to become part of the human food chain thus increasing the likelihood of BSE being passed on to humans.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Beverly A. Paul
President

BAP/lms

