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To whom it may concern,

I was thrilled to hear the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture finally banned the slaughter of downed cattle on 12/30/03. This is both humane and critical for human safety. Not permitting downers to enter the human food chain will prevent mad cow disease to become widespread in the U.S., for sick and diseased cattle, even disabled cattle, are more likely to acquire mad cow disease. Additionally, the cattle are just left to die a slow and painful death as food, water and medicine are denied these sentient beings. Why? It's not good business! It's not economically feasible! So agribusiness and its legislative pals are lobbying the U.S. D.A. to lift the ban on downers. They care little for human safety or the suffering of cows! Not when there's more profit to be made! Please ignore their lobbying efforts and expand the ban to all other species, including sheep and pigs.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,  
Robert V. Rinella