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February 18, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-0251F
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th and C Street SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

To Whom It May Concern,

This correspondence regards the current ban on the slaughter of downed cattle for food. I sincerely applaud the USDA's implementation of this ban. Hopefully, this measure will halt the irresponsible and inhumane marketing and slaughter of downed cattle.

Leaders of agribusiness and their legislative allies in Washington, DC should recognize the true value of this legislation. Please retain the ban on the slaughter of downed cattle and resist the misdirected efforts of the ban's opponents.

Additionally, I urge the USDA to expand the ban on 'downers' to include other species, such as sheep and pigs. All such animals who are too sick to stand should be immediately euthanized rather than allowed to linger in a diseased state or in pain.

Your response regarding this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Makolinski, DVM