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10 David Court
Plainview, NY 11803-6009
March 3, 2004

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

Re: Downer Ban

Dear Ms/Sir:

At stockyards across the country, sick, injured, and diseased animals too weak to even stand are being thrown on dead piles, dragged with chains, pushed with forklifts, and turned into human food.

On December 30, 2003, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibited the slaughter of downed cattle (or "downers") for human food to help protect against mad cow disease. Unfortunately, agribusiness is lobbying the USDA to lift the downer ban. Many of these animals are sick, and their diseased bodies should not be melded into the human food supply to make people ill.

I urge the USDA to retain the prohibition on downer cows, and I urge the USDA to expand this ban to other species, including sheep and pigs. The irresponsible slaughter of downed animals is a national tragedy.

Cordially,



Helen Delvecchio