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FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-025IF
300 12th and C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

February 8, 2004

Re: Docket No. 03-025IF

Dear Secretary Veneman,

Thank you for recognizing the need to protect the public by banning the slaughter of "downed" cattle for human food. The ban would, hopefully, promote also more humane treatment of these unfortunate animals. Please, do not allow any changes which could weaken the regulations recently adopted.

I respectfully ask you to extend the ban to cover any species of downed animals (i.e. cows, pigs, sheep and other livestock), to cover all disabled animals regardless whether ill or injured, and to require humane euthanasia of non-ambulatory animals on the farms and feedlots to prevent further suffering during transportation and in slaughterhouses.

It is a duty of every humane society to protect all sentient creatures from pain and suffering - to protect people from diseases and to provide the most humane treatment to all animals, especially the crippled and hapless. The frequent cruelties documented namely on downed animals during transportation and handling at slaughterhouses are inexcusable and incompatible with moral values of a civilized nation.

Respectfully yours,


Jan Cejka