Thomas DiCarrado 123 Angola Road Cornwall, NY 12518

March 17, 2004

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

Subject: Maintain the USDA's rule to keep downer cattle out of the human food chain and to require that downers be humanely euthanized.

I am writing in response to your request for public comment. I find it an imperative to maintain and then expand the USDA's rule to prohibit the inclusion of downer cattle in the human food chain. I will never eat beef again if these downer cattle are allowed into the food chain, they should never have been there in the first place. I am very proud of our USDA for taking this stand, do not back down. In addition, the USDA must stop all downed animals of any species from entering our food chain; it's just plain wrong to expose us to possible disease when the USDA can prevent it. The USDA must demand humane euthanization of these animals as soon as they become downers.

Sincerely,

Thomas Marade

Thomas DiCarrado