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Minnesota Association of Meat Processors 305 West Cannon Street Cannon Falls, Minnesota 55009 507-263-2976 E-mail mamp@frontiernet.net

March 25, 2004

Vyrlyn Ruiter Box 266 Leota, MN 56163

Dear Mr. Ruiter,

The Minnesota Association of Meat Processors supports the position of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture regarding the slaughter of downer animals.

We have enclosed a copy of the letter that the MDA recently sent to the Minnesota Meat Processors. This letter states the position of the MDA, however it is our understanding that the USDA does not agree with this policy. As of today we do not know what part they do not approve.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Lorentz

MAMP Executive Secretary

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C:Buster Johnson MAMP President