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Ellsworth Frozen Food Lockers
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E. Ellsworth, WI 54010

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03-025IF
03-025IF-58
Jeffrey A Farris

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket#3-025IF
Room 102 Cotton Annex
300 12th & C Streets SW
Washington, DC. 20250-3700

To Whom It May Concern: I am the owner of a small custom locker plant in Wisconsin, and I am writing to you to express my opinion on the recent ruling set forth by the USDA concerning the strict ban on slaughtering "Downers". I don't have a problem with the ban on 'sick' downers, but what about the 'healthy' animal that slips and falls, and either breaks a leg or "splits out". Those animals don't have anything to do with BSE, so why the ban on slaughtering them? I am a mobile slaughterer and the majority of my business is animals with broken legs or "splits". How am I supposed to survive now? What about my employees? What about the small farmer who raises a nice healthy steer for their family, only to have it condemned because it may have slipped on the ice (Which happens a lot here in Wisconsin) and become non-ambulatory? I think this should be looked at very carefully. Many small businesses will be forced to lay off employees, or worse yet, close their doors! Please change this ban to exclude the "non-sick" downers!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A Farris
Owner
Ellsworth Frozen Food Lockers