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Sept 4, 2008

Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Room 2534 South Agriculture Building
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Docket Number FSIS-2008-0022

Dear USDA,

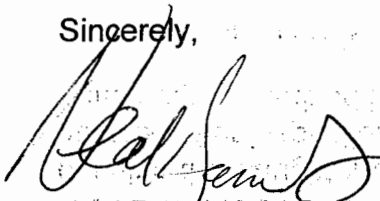
On behalf of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) and its more than 100,000 members, I encourage the USDA to adopt the proposed rules regarding the Disposition of Downer Cattle (docket number FSIS-2008-0022).

The alarming reality is that historically poor enforcement has led to agricultural sources that have unknown contamination levels, and stricter rules are imperative. In the critical interest of human health and safety, PCRM supports banning the slaughter of all downed cattle, including those who may become downed after inspection at slaughterhouses. These suffering animals should be humanely euthanized immediately.

In addition, the USDA should extend this safety measure toward all livestock, including pigs, sheep, goats, and others. Any sick animal should be prevented from entering the food supply.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Neal Barnard, M.D.
President
(202) 686-2210