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December 23, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room #1061  
Rockville, MD 20785

**Re: 98P-0151/CP1**

Dear Representative,

I am writing to implore you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Thus, allowing the slaughter and sale of downed animals removes the incentive for the industry to abide by the anti-cruelty laws and treat their animals humanely. Downed animals are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, resulting in bruises, abrasions, broken bones and torn ligaments.

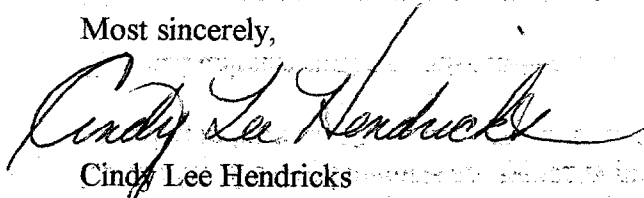
Downed animals suffer so intolerably. . . .

The consumption of meat products from downed animals is also a threat to human welfare. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy ("Mad Cow Disease"), which has been linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a fatal human illness.

There is enough damaging evidence against the mistreatment of and meat products from downed animals, that according to an agency statement, the "USDA will no longer accept ground beef that includes product from non-ambulatory cattle, commonly known as 'downers'."

Please, I urgently request that you grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

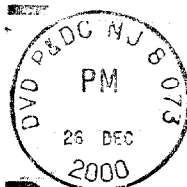
Most sincerely,

  
Cindy Lee Hendricks

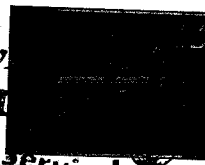
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