

January 27, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear FDA Staff:

I urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1, which prohibits the slaughter of downed animals. It is tragic that current laws allow the livestock industry to subject animals to unspeakable cruelty. In addition, allowing animals that are too sick or injured even to stand to enter the human food chain invites the spread of diseases via bacterial contamination.

In considering this petition, please be aware that practices such as pushing downed animals with tractors and dragging them with chains have been well documented. It is also common practice to throw still-living, incapacitated animals onto "dead piles," or to simply abandon them in place—either way resulting in slow, agonizing death. The law must be changed now to ensure that such treatment is unacceptable under all circumstances. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

As a nation, we can and must do better than to inflict needless suffering. Please do the right thing by supporting petition 98P-0151/CP1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Lynn F. Wallace

98P-0151

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