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January 28, 2001

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

RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to urge the Food and Drug Administration to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals that are non-ambulatory should not be allowed to enter the food chain. The consumption of downed animals may increase the risk of "Mad Cow Disease", which has been linked to Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, a fatal human illness.

In addition to the health risks to humans, the inhumane treatment of downed animals is deplorable. Industry experts estimate that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with improved care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animal occurrences.

Please grant petition number 98P-0151/CP1. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Respectfully,

Lori A. Szewczyk

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