

29 January 2001

Pamela Buitrago
2915 NW Greeley Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330

9 6 2 3 '01 FEB -5 10:12

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 or Madam:

I am writing to urge you to grant the petition that would prohibit the slaughter of downed farm animals for food.

The practice of slaughtering sick and disabled farm animals is just one of many current practices on large commercial farms that are wholly inhumane to animals and dangerous to human health. This petition represents one small step toward improving our animal agricultural practices, thereby making them more humane, healthy and sustainable.

You surely already know that downed present an increased risk of bacterial contamination if they are allowed to enter the human food chain. There is also evidence that some downed animals could carry BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), a disease that has been linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a fatal human illness.

Furthermore, it is impossible to move downed animals humanely. They are commonly pushed with tractors or dragged with chains—resulting in bruises and abrasions, broken bones and torn ligaments.

Finally, industry experts estimate that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to corporate farmers to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Please grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals, docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Sincerely,


Pamela Buitrago

98P-0151

23840

Pamela Buitrago
2915 NW Greeley Ave
Corvallis OR 97330



AKA
305

U.S. Food + Drug Admin.
Dockets Mgmt. Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

