

2208 Pleasant Grove Road
Lansing, Michigan 48910-2474

February 1, 2001
0689 '01 FEB -8 P2:28

United States Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane; Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

To Whom it May concern:

I wrote to Senators Levin and Abraham and to Representative Stabenow (all of Michigan) as early as March 1997 to ask that they co-sponsor S. 850 and H.R. 453, the Downed Animal Protection Act. These bills would have prohibited the sale of downed animals throughout the United States. They would have banned downed animal cruelties by eliminating the economic incentive for the meat industry to deal in "downers." As you can see, quite a long time has passed since then and the "no downers" issue is still alive and well. I find it shameful that bills which are never acted upon in a given Congress are allowed to be "tabled." I think that it is time that this issue is acted upon in the only way in which it can—morally and ethically for *all* concerned—human and nonhuman. Because these bills were tabled, the meat industry has been given freedom to continue to use and abuse downed animals.

The "no downers" issue has come up once again. Now, I ask *you*, the USDA, via petition 98P-0151/CP1, to stop the downed animal trade. In order to morally and ethically deal with this situation from the human standpoint, animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the food chain. There is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease") which has been linked to a fatal human illness. In order to morally and ethically deal with this situation from the standpoint of the animal, one must understand that it is impossible to humanely move a downed animal. They are either pushed with tractors or dragged with chains resulting in bruises or abrasions and even broken bones and torn ligaments.

Finally, industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented by using better care and handling. Removing downed animals from being marketed will provide an incentive to industry to prevent this situation in the first place. And because such animals now comprise a small percentage of animals slaughtered (but nevertheless, too high a percentage), economy will not suffer.

Please protect farm animals and the human public by acting upon petition 98P-0151/CP1 in the only way in which it can—once again—morally and ethically.

98P-0151

C3916

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

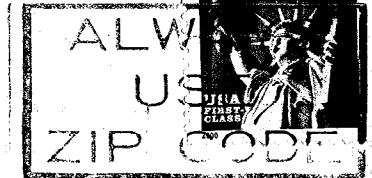
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori J. Rumpf". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lori J. Rumpf



Ms. Lori Rumpf
2208 Pleasant Grv Rd
Lansing, MI 48910-2474



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