

February 4, 2001

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

Re: Docket# 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Food and Drug Administration,

Please grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for food. Besides the inhumane treatment of these animals, downers pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination. Some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) which has been linked to human fatal illness, CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease). It is impossible to move downed animals humanely. 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. I urge you to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for food. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

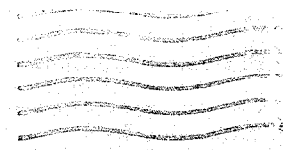
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