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RE: docket number 98P-0151/CP 1

Dear Sir or Madame,

I urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the **slaughter** of downed animals - docket number# 98P-0151/CP1.

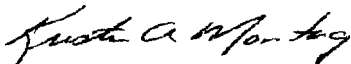
Animals who are too sick or injured to even stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE, a disease that has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD). It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and **they** are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. These processes are inhumane and cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. 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.

Farm Sanctuary and other animal protection organizations are lobbying to pass the Downed Animal Protection Act in Washington, DC. This commonsense measure requires that animals who are too sick to stand "downed animals" be humanely euthanized at stockyards.

Thank you for prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kristin A. Montag