

January 1, 2001

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

65-60 Booth Street
Apt #1K
Rego Park, NY 11374

9263 01 JAN -2

18:36

Dear U.S.F.D.A.:

We are writing to ask that you grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals; docket number **98P-0151/CP1**. This measure would require that animals who are too sick to stand be humanely euthanized at stockyards.

We are asking approval of this petition for several reasons. Animals who are too sick or injured to even stand should not be allowed to be used for food. It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, an inhumane process which causes injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments. This is downright cruelty and should not be allowed.

We are especially concerned about the increased risks of bacterial contamination, as there is some evidence that some downed animals may be infected with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy ("Mad Cow Disease"). Our family has already greatly decreased our beef consumption because of fears of bacterial infections that seem to occur more frequently these days.

Since downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, this petition would cause a negligible economic impact. In addition, industry experts estimate that 90% of downed animals could 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.

As this petition would only make the meat supply safer for the public, would treat the animals more humanely, and would have a minute financial impact, we strongly urge you to grant petition **98P-0151/CP1**.

Respectfully Yours,

Marie and David Rogers

98P-0151

C 3259