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January 1, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
Fax: (301) 827-6870

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RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am contacting you in regard to Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1, a landmark policy to stop purchasing meat from downed cows for federal programs.

Downed animals cannot be moved humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, resulting in injuries from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments. Furthermore, the use of downed animals in meat production poses an increased health risk to the consumer from bacterial contamination and disease.

Prohibiting the marketing of downed animals will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts have estimated that 90 percent 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.

Please be compassionate and grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Sincerely,
Cynthia A. Ward
Cynthia Ward

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