



4332 '01 MAY 15 NO:23

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

RE: DOCKET # 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Food and Drug Administration,

I am writing to urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 specified above, to ban the slaughter of downed animals. This petition is reasonable and prudent. Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Clearly, such animals pose an increased risk of bacterial contamination. There is even the possibility of BSE, commonly known as "mad cow disease".

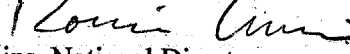
It is impossible to move downed animals humanely; currently, they may be dragged with chains or moved by forklift, causing suffering and additional injuries. This constitutes cruelty and should not be permitted, as a matter of compassion.

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

Industry experts estimate that up to 90% of downers can be prevented by better treatment and handling. This petition, by removing the market for downed animals, will encourage treatment standards which will prevent downed animals in the first place.

Please grant this petition. It makes good sense, from the perspectives of economics, human health, and humane considerations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,   
Ronnie Cummins, National Director  
Organic Consumers Association  
6101 Cliff Estate Road  
Little Marais, Minnesota 55614

98P-0151

C4820

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The BioDemocracy Campaign is a project of the Organic Consumers Association





ORGANIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION

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076 MAY 09 01  
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 55603

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