

May 11, 2001

USFDA  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

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RE: DOCKET 98P-0151-CP1

Dear Sirs:

Please pass the above petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for food. I have seen firsthand the brutal treatment these injured, old or farmed-out animals receive when I worked for DeKalb Hog Research my first year out of college. Sows that had borne endless litters in pens with barely room to stand or lie and were now so crippled and arthritic from confinement and overbreeding they could not stand for more than few moments at a time, much less walk, were forced up ramps to the trucks transporting them for slaughter with electric cattle prods, and when they fell, squealing, they were repeatedly shocked, kicked and dragged into the trucks. This is why I became a secretary, and why I still feel intense guilt when I buy any pork product, though I love bacon and live in Memphis, Tennessee, a pork BBQ lover's paradise. I am NOT against eating meat - I am against CRUELTY, and the inhumane treatment of the animals we kill for food.

As long as there is any market for these "downer" animals, they will continue to suffer in the above manner. I am deeply grateful to the USDA for announcing they will no longer use meat from "downed" animals for federal programs, including the national school lunch program. This is a compassionate step in the right direction.

Please pass Docket #98P-0151/CP1 prohibiting the slaughter for sale of "downed" animals. If there is no market for these poor creatures, perhaps the livestock industry will have more of an incentive to dispose of them on-site, (and a bullet to the head is a more humane end than they now receive) or more importantly, prevent the factory-farming practices that produce "downers" in the first place.

Sincerely,

*Nocte Vena Cava*

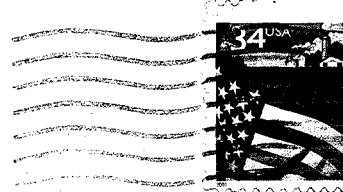
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98P-0151

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