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December 30, 2002

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

Re: Docket #98P-0151/CP1

Gentlemen\Ladies:

I understand that under present USDA regulations, "downed" animals are described as "diseased" and that it is illegal to sell their meat for human consumption.

However, the slaughterhouse killing of downers permits the flesh of ailing livestock to enter our food supply. Are they diagnosed before slaughter? Do we know with certainty that they are not carrying some deadly disease vector?

A petition filed under docket number 98P-0151/CP1 addresses this violation of federal law. I urge you to act on this petition for the safety and health of the American public.

Sincerely yours,

Iris Marquez President

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98P-0151