

October 20, 2000

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Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Docket # 98P-0151/CPI

Dear Commissioner:

Please act promptly to ban the slaughter of downed animals for human food. The current practice of slaughtering animals who are too sick to even stand up and then marketing that animal for human consumption is unacceptable. Existing USDA regulations define downed animals as "diseased" and the law prohibits the slaughter of diseased animals for human food.

Last summer the FDA appropriately banned certain animal by-products from being used in livestock feed because it was concerned about a potential threat of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States. I applaud this action as a positive step, but further measures are necessary to reduce the threat of BSE and other diseases that commonly afflict U.S. cattle in this country.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

Sincerely yours,



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