

November 12, 2000

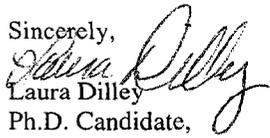
To Whom It May Concern:

I urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals, Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1. There are a number of compelling reasons to prohibit the sale of downed animals:

- Animals that are too sick or injured to even right themselves on four legs are not fit to enter the human food chain.
- These animals present an increased risk of bacterial contamination.
- We cannot rule out the possibility that some downed animals might in fact be afflicted with a form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease).
- It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely.
- Prohibiting the sale of downed animals will incur no economic hardship, since these animals account currently for a very small percentage of sales.
- Estimates by industry experts suggest that 90% of downed animal cases can be prevented by better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide incentive for treating the animals more humanely.

In summary, I strongly urge you to support the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals, Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1.

Sincerely,


Laura Dilley

Ph.D. Candidate,

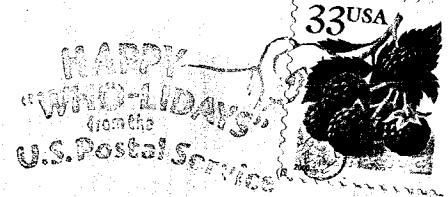
Harvard-MIT program in Health Sciences Technology

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