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To The US Food and Drug Administration:

This is an urgent request to please end the downed animal trade. Please grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals-docket # 98P-0151/CP1.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand, should not be permitted to enter the human food chain.

In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE or Mad Cow Disease, a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

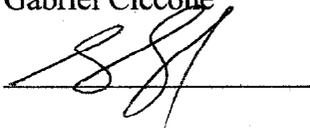
Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Finally, industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I look forward to seeing this medically safe and humane petition be put into effect by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Dockets Management Branch as soon as possible. Additionally, I am requesting a response from you as to the status of this petition and what you are doing to support it for the health and safety of our children and families alike.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Ciccone



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