November 14, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Md. 20785

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To whom this may concern,

Please grant the petition of Farm Sanctuary to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals - docket number 98P-0151/CP1. Animals who are so sick or injured that they cannot stand shouldn't be allowed to enter the human food chain. Besides the increased risk of bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may have a type of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), an illness that has been linked to a fatal human illness (C.J.D. or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease). It's almost impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. These inhumane practices cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments. Since downed animals are a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better

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Care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will give an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Thank you for your attention, and for your compassion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail S. Robinson

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