

November 4, 2000

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to urge you to grant the petition brought forth by the "Farm Sanctuary" to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals-docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed 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 (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

The marketing and slaughter of downed animals causes intolerable animal suffering and poses an unnecessary risk to human health.

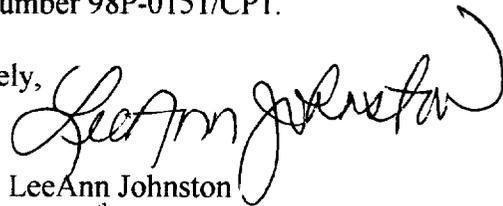
It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains-inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

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

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.

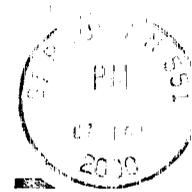
Thank you for your time and again I ask that you please grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals -docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Sincerely,



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