10-17-00

U.S. Food & Drug admin.,

This letter is concerning Docket # 98P-0151/CP1. I am writing to urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. The idea of feeding sick or diseased animals to my children disgusts me as it would any parent.

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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). This is scary! Again, would you feed sick animals such as this to your children? I know I would not.

Furthermore, 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. Please consider this! Thank you, Veronica Chandler

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98P-0151

Ms. Veronica Sanders
7470 Memorial Park Dr.
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336

HAMPTON ROADS VA 233
PM
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2000

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HFA
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U.S. Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

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