October 18, 2000

Gentlemen:

Re: Downed Animal
Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

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I urge that the slaughter of downed animals be prohibited.

Animal too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed in the human food chain.

In addition to posing increased risk for bacterial contamination there is evidence that some downed animal maybe afflicted with a form of BSE - "Mad Cow Disease".

It's practically impossible to move downed animal humanely and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions

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to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause little economic hardship.

Industry experts estimate that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and changing Remaining the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Respectfully,
Florence L. Orth

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