

October 19, 00

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

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This letter is in protest of the cruel downed animal trade. I urge all members of the Dockets Management Branch to support 98P-0151/CP1 and end the slaughter of all downed animals.

Please consider the following points:

- a. animals who are to sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.
- b. downed animals pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination and there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "mad Cow Disease, which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD).
- c. it is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains-inhumane practices which cause injuries ranging from bruises to abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.
- d. downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- e. 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 implore all members to search their hearts and prohibit the marketing of downed animals by supporting 98P-0151/CP1.

Thank you for your humane consideration concerning this extremely important and much needed support.

Respectfully,

*Dorlene Wheeler*

98P-0151

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