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October 22, 2000

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

To whom it may concern:

~~I am writing at this time to ask you 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).

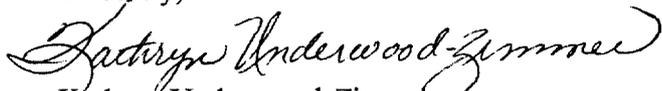
It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

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!

The way we treat food animals in this country is unconscionable. We are a wealthy nation, with state-of-the-art technology available to us in every area of our lives. I find it very difficult to believe that animals raised for food cannot be treated humanely up until and through the time they are killed and processed for our dinner tables. One would expect such poor, inhumane treatment from very backwards third world nations - NOT the United States of America!

Sincerely,


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