

Sonya M. Garbutt

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October 24, 2000

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

Gentlemen:

I'm writing regarding docket number 98P-0151/CP1, 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. 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 that has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

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. Furthermore, 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.

We think of ourselves as a civilized nation. Please do what you can to encourage a civilized approach to the slaughter of these creatures who give their lives to feed us.

Sincerely,



Sonya M. Garbutt

*Nothing ventured, something lost.*

98P-0151

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