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October 25, 2000

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

Docket #98P-0151/CP1

Gentlemen:

Please grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals and I respectfully request your consideration of the following points.

- (a) Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.
- (b) 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 (Mad Cow Disease) which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease)
- (c) 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.
- (d) Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- (e) Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Very truly yours,


Joe Baker

98P-0151

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