

NANCY GOLUMBIA

8 2 8 4 '01 JAN 29 11:04 January 23, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dockets Management Branch:

I am writing in support of docket number 98P-0151/CP1 which will prohibit the sale and slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. There is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE, popularly known as Mad Cow Disease), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CID or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease). In addition, the processing of sick animals increases the risks of bacterial contaminations such as e coli.

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

90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

For the health of our farm animals and the health of the American people, please grant petition 98P-0151/CP1.

Sincerely,

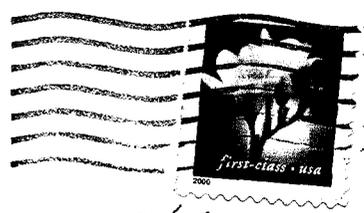


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98P-0151

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