

January 27, 2001

Dear Sir or Madam,

9168 '01 FEB -1 A9:35

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the treatment of 'downed' cattle and to request your support for docket # 98P-0151/CPI, which prohibits the slaughter of downed animals. First, experience has shown time and again, that it is almost impossible to move non-ambulatory cattle in a humane manner; instead, they are usually dragged with chains or pushed by tractors, causing severe injuries that compound their suffering. In addition, common sense dictates that animals who are too ill to stand or walk should not be made available for human consumption. Because downed animals account for only a small percentage of the animals slaughtered for sale, prohibiting their marketing will not significantly impact the beef industry. Finally, industry experts have estimated that up to 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide a better incentive to prevent downed and diseased animals in the first place. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

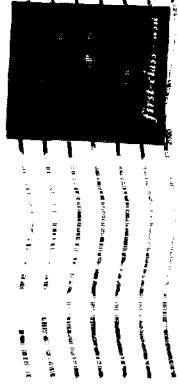
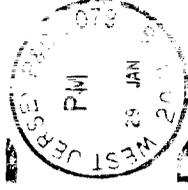
Christa Tinari

Christa Tinari

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C3788

Tinari
17 Cathedral Ave
Flushing Park, NJ 07932



US. Food & Drug Administration
Drugs Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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