Jan. 27, 01

To: Food and Drug Administration
(Dockets Management Branch)

9206 '01 FEB -1 A9:45

I am writing to earnestly urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured to even 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).

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely. They are pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. This is terribly inhumane and unacceptable. It causes further injuries such as broken bones, torn ligaments, bruises and abrasions.

Downed animals make up such a small percentage of animals slaughtered that prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Industry experts estimate that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide incentive to prevent downed animals.

Please do the humane thing. Do the right thing and grant petition 98P-0151/CP1. We will be the kind society for it. Thank you

Sincerely,
Karen Brown
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98P-0151

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