

1025 Valley Road
Washington, NH 03280

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

January 7, 2001

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to urge you to grant docket number 98P-0151/CP1, which would prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for the following reasons:

- 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 fatal human illness.
- It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains.
- Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- 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 to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

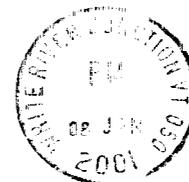


Christine Richard

98P-0151

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