Mrs. Irene Freedman
10584 Royal Caribbean Cir
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

1/15/2001

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

Ref: Petition 98P-0151/CP1

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Dear Sirs:

Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

In addition to posing an increased risk for food (bacterial) contamination there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE - Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy - or "Mad Cow Disease" which has been linked to CJD - Creutzfeldt - Jakob Disease!

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MOVE DOWNED ANIMALS HUMANLY. THEY ARE DRAGGED WITH CHAINS OR PUSHED WITH TRACTORS. INHUMANE PROCESSES WHICH CAUSE INJURIES RANGING FROM BRUISING TO BROKEN BONES.

DOWNED ANIMALS COMPRISE A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED - CAUSING NO UNDUE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP. BETTER HANDLING WOULD PREVENT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

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PLEASE CARE! Irene Freedman

98P-0151