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January 8, 2001

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

Dear USDA,

Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

I am writing to urge the USDA to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the 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 ("Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

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

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.

Sincerely,



(Mrs. Traude Buckland)

98P-0151

C3354



Waltraud Buckland
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