

1/8/01

RE: Docket # 98P - 0151 CP1

3750 '01 JAN 16 10:42
To Whom It May Concern,

We ask that you grant petition number 98P -0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Livestock that are too injured to stand or too sick, should not be entering the human food chain. Human health risks run from e-coli and salmonella to the even deadlier, BSE.

As you know, due to their large size and weakness, it is not possible to move these animals in a humane manner. They are usually pushed by tractors or dragged with chains, a truly cruel process that inflicts even greater pain and suffering to these animals.

Moreover, downed animals constitute a very small percentage of slaughtered livestock so a prohibition on their sale will not cause any significant financial hardship to those in the industry.

Finally, experts in the agricultural field have stated that 90% of injuries to those animals could have been prevented with better handling and care. Prohibiting a market for downed animals will certainly give the industry a real incentive for better animal husbandry and prevention of injuries. We would appreciate a written reply to our concerns at your convenience.

Thank you,

The Weintraub Family

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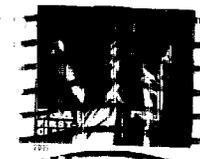
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