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2312 Dover Ave
9380 '01 Fort Myers, FL 33907

February 21, 2001

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

Dear Sir:

DOCKET #98P-0151/CP1

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

I would like to make the following points in this regard:

Animals who are too sick or injured even to 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, a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness. We are hearing about this illness more and more each week.

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - a most horrible and inhumane process which causes 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.

I am, therefore, urging your Administration to grant the above petition and I shall be alert as to the outcome.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours truly,

Hilda Brennand
Hilda Brennand

98P-0151

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