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March 2001

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

Re: *Grant Petition 98P-0151/CP1*

To the FDA:

I am writing to urge you to grant Petition 98P-0151/CP1 to protect animals in America's slaughterhouses.

Reasons for my request include the following:

- It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause severe injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.
- Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be put in 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 (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).
- Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to the industry to prevent the cruelty that causes animals to be injured.

For more information, please visit www.farmsanctuary.org.

I look forward to hearing that this petition has been granted.

Sincerely,

John B. Richardson

Your agency is reprehensible!

98P-0151

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