

March 12, 2001

U.S. FDA
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to express our wholehearted support for **petition or docket # 98P-0151/CPI**, to prevent the slaughter of downed animals for human consumption. Not only does the dragging of "downer" livestock to the killing floors create unacceptable suffering for those animals, but the sale of their flesh poses an easily avoidable threat to human health. There is absolutely no good reason why animals with severe health problems (broken bones, infections, and possibly contagious neurological diseases) should not be given quick euthanasia and pulled from slaughterhouse lines.

If farmers, truckers and food processing corporations object to losing money from euthanasia rather than slaughter of sick animals, perhaps it is time we question why they insist on creating the conditions which sicken and injure so many animals before they reach the killing floors.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Michaud, M.D.



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