

Ms. AnnMarie Miller

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64 Haines Street

Lockport, New York 14094

U.S. Food & Drug Adm.

Dockets Management Branch

5630 Fishers Lane

Room 1061

Rockville, MD 20852

March 14, 2001

RE: Docket Number **98P-0151/CP1**

Dear Sir or Madam:

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

In addition to possible bacterial contamination, some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalophy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

Furthermore, animals too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Downed animals 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,

AnnMarie Miller

AnnMarie Miller

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