

2051 '01 APR 26 P12:12

April 22, 2001

U.S Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Food and Drug Administration:

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1, which will prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. I admire the policy that the USDA announced last year, which stated that it would no longer purchase meat from downed cows for the National School Lunch Program. Bravo! Finally, the industry is recognizing the health risks and cruelty inherent in slaughtering crippled animals.

There are many negative factors in marketing downed animals. Animals who are too sick or injured to stand pose a health threat to consumers and should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Regarding the compassion issue, it is impossible to move downed animals humanely; therefore, they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. These brutal practices cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.

In response to the financial questions posed by this issue, downed animals only comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, so prohibiting their marketing will not cause any financial hardship on farmers.

It is for all the above reasons that I urge you to support this petition and to end the marketing of downed animals for human consumption. I believe that all downed animals should be examined by veterinarians on the spot and should be humanely and painlessly slaughtered if necessary. Too many downed animals have suffered long hours of dehydration and starvation. It is time to end this cruelty.

Thank you for reading my letter and for considering this crucial issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Bridget Blitz

98P-0151

C4707

Ms. Bridget Blitz
582 East Street
Lenox, MA 01240



U.S Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

20857+0001 