Ms Rae S. Sabella
9630 Pine Avenue
West Long Branch,
NJ 07764-1544

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Oct. 19, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration:
Docket Management Branch:

I urge that they grant our petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals - docket number 98P-0151/CP1

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 (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease") a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt - Jakob Disease)

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It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with

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chains - in humane 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 for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Sincerely,
Rae S. Sabellas

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