1/27/2001

To US Food & Drug Administration:

8948 '01 JAN 31 A10:17

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

① Animals who are too sick or injured should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

② 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 human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

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(3) It is impossible to move downed animals humanely and they 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.

(4) Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

(5) 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
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