U.S. Food & Drug Administr.
Docket Mgm't Branch
Rockville MD 20852
Re Docket 98P-0151/CP1

9970 '01 FEB -6 AM 10:49

Oakland, 1.31.01.

I am writing to put a stop to the downed animal trade once & for all. My primary reasons are as follows:

1. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better handling & care. Removing the market for downed animals will be an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.
2. Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
3. It is impossible to humanely move downed animals and they are typically dragged with chains or pushed with tractors - inhumane procedures which cause injuries ranging from bruises & abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments, adding to the horror.
4. Animals too sick or injured to stand or walk 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 "Mad Cow Disease", a disease which has been linked to the fatal human illness "Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease".

Your cooperation will be appreciated and is absolutely essential.

Sincerely,

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