U. S. Food & Drug Adm.
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

2563 '02 FEB 13 A11:08

2/10/2001

Dear Sirs:

98P-0151/CP1

Animals who are too sick or injured to even 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 called (Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease)

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically prodded with tractors or dragged with chains, inhumane processes which cause injuries

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ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones & 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 & handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Looking forward to hearing from you

A Bird

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