

Alice K. Helm  
Attorney At Law (Retired)  
7000 Millwood Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
301-229-5576 - FAX 301-229-4905  
E-mail helmsarca@aol.com

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November 20, 2000

U. S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5600 Fishers Lane (Room 1061)  
Rockville, MD 20785

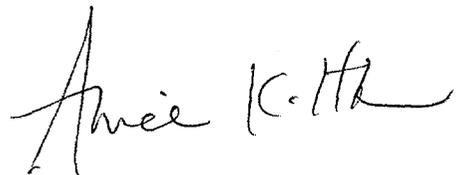
RE: Docket # 98P-0151/CPI

I am a neighbor in Bethesda. I understand you have a petition pending regarding the prohibition of the Slaughter of Downed Animals, known as "downers", docket number above.

I hope you have received hundreds of other letters regarding this issue. Please place this one in your files as a supporter of the petition. From my perspective, the matter is a no-brainer and does not require a degree in rocket science to appreciate that animals deserve humane treatment. Leaving injured or abused meat animals to suffer, dragging them to slaughter and then using the meat for human consumption is obscene as well as dangerous for the food supply.

If the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service recognizes that the National School Lunch Program should not be using ground beef that includes meat from downers, your agency can act to prohibit their slaughter in the first instance.

Join the ranks of the caring government employee, as I was as a government lawyer for more than 30 years. Prohibit the killing of downers. They ought to be handled with care at all stages.



98P-0151

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Attorney At Law (Retired)  
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