

December 5, 2000

US FDA

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Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

To Whom it May Concern:

I have read in the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) newspaper that you are accepting letters to urge that you grant the PETA petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Further, by requiring such practices, farmers will have better conditions for cattle to assure their health throughout their raising process – better for animals and people.

In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals could be afflicted with a form of BSE, also known as Mad Cow Disease, which has been linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are frequently dragged or pushed with tractors. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling – removing this market will provide and incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place! Lastly, they comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. This is something that can easily be prevented!

Sincerely,

Barry and Lorri Summers

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