FDA Dockets Management Branch,

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

These animals are often treated very cruelly - left to languish for hours or even days without food or water or proper care. They are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with with chains causing further injury such as abrasions and broken bones.

Animals who are too sick or injured ever to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Downed animals are a very small percentage of slaughtered animals, so prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Also, industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and gentler handling.

Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I hope you will consider this petition and thus prevent some suffering of these animals and improve food safety.

Sincerely,
Traci Schmitt

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