8 Hutchins Street
Concord, NH
03301-3208

October 16, 2000

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US Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

To Whom This May Concern:

I am writing concerning docket number 98P-0151/CP1, and to urge you to use your influence to end the downed animal trade, by granting the above petition which will prohibit the slaughter of downed animals

Animals who are too sick or injured even to 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 infected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"

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a disease which causes a fatal human illness (Creutzfeldt - Jakob Disease)

~~Remov~~ Moving downed animals is an inhumane process. They are pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, methods which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Downed animals make up only a small percentage of animals killed for food. Banning these animals from entering the market will not cause an economic hardship.

Experts in industry have stated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with giving the animals better care and humane handling. Eliminating the market for downed animals will provide the incentive for preventing livestock from becoming "downers" in the first place.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rodriguez

Ms. Barbara Bonsignore
8 Hutchins St.
Concord, NH 03301-3208

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

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