

2140 Bonnycastle Ave., Apt. 2-D
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
October 20, 2000

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I am writing in regard to docket number 98P-0151/CP1, which would prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Prohibition of this cruelty is long overdue. The suffering is intolerable, and should be eliminated in any so-called civilized country - the food lobby notwithstanding.

Some pertinent observations:

- * 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 afflicted with a form of BSE (or "Mad Cow Disease", a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).
- * It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and 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 and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

We urge you to grant our petition to end this practice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Joyce N. Tichenor
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