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0670 '00 OCT 27 P1:39

October 5, 2000

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

Re: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

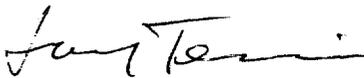
Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to request that you grant the Farm Sanctuary's petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. There are several compelling reasons to eliminate this practice. Animals who are too ill or injured to even stand should not be permitted 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 the disease BSE, which as you know has been linked to a fatal human illness.

Ending this practice is also necessary for humane reasons. It is virtually impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, which causes injuries from bruises to broken bones to 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 such an incentive.

It is economically and otherwise feasible to end the downed animal trade. For humane reasons, it is imperative to do so.

Thank you,

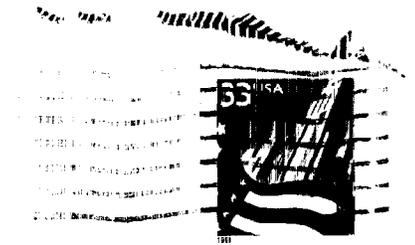


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98P-0151

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