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October 24, 2000

United States Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20785
Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear FDA:

I am writing to urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals docket number 98P-0151/CP1. Visit a slaughterhouse and you will be horrified at the inhumane handling of innocent creatures that give their lives for humans. Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, inhumane processes that cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with more humane care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place. Please do the honorable thing and STOP the torture of animals that cannot help themselves. This country should be an example to all concerning the compassionate and humane handling of our animals.

Please hear the cries of hundreds of tortured dying animals that lie in pain and agony awaiting their death.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated...I hold that, the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man." Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

Sincerely,



Connie Simpson
RDH

98P-0151

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