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

Re: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Please end the downed animal trade and grant petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or inured even to sand 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 Mad Cow Disease, a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD).

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.

In conclusion, we are all God's children, animals as well as humans and we are all important if we are to survive. We need to treat our animals more gently and without cruelty. There is never an excuse for cruelty to any animal or person. Please consider the petition to end the downed animal trade.

Thank you

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Teacher and psychotherapist.



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