

861 Burr Drive
Rock Springs, WY 82901
November 9, 2000

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

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RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Gentlemen:

I am writing to urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for the following reasons:

Animals who are too sick or injured to even stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain;

There is some evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy;

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 incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Savage
Dorothy Savage