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3 October 1999

Dr. Michael Friedman, Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Friedman:

We write to you in reference to Docket No. 98P-0151/CP1 concerning downed animals. We advocate the human euthanization of downed animals because it is the moral thing to do and because it is an important step in ensuring the safety of food that reaches American consumers. As American taxpayers, we have a right to expect that the FDA will do all it can to ensure that diseased animals are not themselves slaughtered and sold in American markets or are not brought into contact with healthy animals destined for the same unfortunate fate. Furthermore, and perhaps more importantly in the larger scope of things, there is an ethical imperative that we as human beings have to prevent unnecessary suffering and pain in animals that are dependent on us. Euthanization of downed animals would seem to be mandated by moral duty if for no other reason.

We urge the FDA to do all it can to improve the conditions in American stockyards and auctions, and to secure a safe food supply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Judith M. Barringer
Greg R. Barringer
Judith M. Barringer
Greg R. Barringer

EXHIBIT
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