Refer to Docket 99P-0033/CP 1

Eileen Varin, M.A.
263 Center St.
San Rafael, CA
94901

Dear Mrs. Henney,

I am writing to demand that the FDA act on the Humane Farming Association's petition to forbid the practice of feeding dead ruminants to livestock intended for human consumption.

Even a cursory reading of the literature indicates that this practice is likely to (if not certain to) expose unsuspecting people to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). This has been proven to have happened in Britain and will surely happen here, as we engage in the same livestock rendering/feeding practices as that nation does. Indeed, because TSEs can take up to 30 years to manifest symptoms, there may already be millions of Americans who carry the disease agent but remain asymptomatic.

If you would like more information on TSEs and their intraspecies transmission, I would suggest you read Eileen Ruppell Shell's

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article, "Could Mad-Cow Disease Happen Here?" in the September, 1998 issue of The Atlantic Monthly.

There is no doubt that the welfare of all meat consuming Americans depends on providing food that is free of disease-producing agents such as the TSEs found in many rendered ruminant animals. I hope you will act on this petition - it is the right thing to do, though it certainly won't be popular among certain agricultural ~~concerns~~ interests.

Sincerely,

Eileen Varin

Ms. Eileen Varin
263 Center St
San Rafael CA 94901-1719

The HSUS - Helping to End Cruelty to Animals

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 941
PM
12 JUN
1999

FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 14-71
Rockville, MD
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