Dear USFDA, Jan 5, 2001

Please grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand 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 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease", a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness - CJD - Creutzfeldt - Jakob Disease. It is 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. 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 to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

(MRS) Evelyn M. Miles

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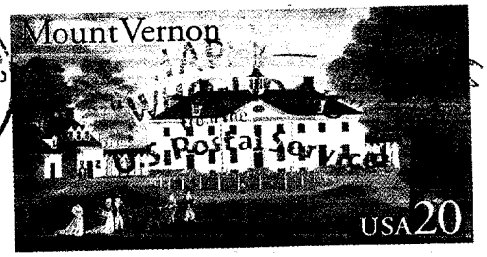

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