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Maury County Government

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Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sirs:

I have recently reviewed your proposed Rule Docket 2002N-0273 regarding the disposal of Specified Risk Material from all dead stock and downer animals. While there may be some increased protection implemented by these proposed regulations the negative effects by such regulations will be extremely detrimental to those of us in county governments who use rendering companies to remove our dead farm livestock.

We have been using Griffin Industries to remove dead livestock from our county farms for many years and feel that it is absolutely essential that this service continue. Maury County, Tennessee, is the largest producer of beef cattle in the State of Tennessee and Griffin Industries removes several hundred dead animals each year. This proposed regulation will impose standards of separation and identification that will probably cause many rendering companies to go out of business or have to impose such charges that county governments can't pay. The result will be dead animals on farm land and roadside and even possibly in water sources to decay and rot. Such practice will result in far more health hazards than the minimal protections resulting from the proposed rule.

On behalf of all rural county governments I respectfully suggest this Rule Docket No. 2002N-0273 be removed or modified to allow for the removal of dead animals using the current rules and guidelines.

Respectfully,

James L. Bailey, Jr.
Maury County Mayor

JBL/tc

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