

April 22, 2008

Honorable Ed Schafer
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please find enclosed a Citizen Petition requesting that the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) amend a regulation concerning the disposition of non-ambulatory disabled cattle offered for slaughter. Specifically, the petition requests that 9 CFR 309.3 be amended to eliminate the provision that allows a public health veterinarian to allow, in limited circumstances, cattle that become non-ambulatory after passing ante-mortem inspection to enter the food supply.

Consistent with this petition, petitioners American Meat Institute and National Meat Association pledge to strongly encourage their affected members to engage in a voluntary moratorium regarding the slaughter and processing of such non-ambulatory cattle until FSIS has promulgated a final rule effecting the requested change. We urge FSIS to move forward with this petition as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

American Meat Institute
National Meat Association
National Milk Producers Federation

cc: D. Raymond
S. Herd
A. Almanza
P. Derfler
K. Petersen

Enclosure