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Royersford, PA 19468

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator
Food Safety Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Regulation for Downed Calves

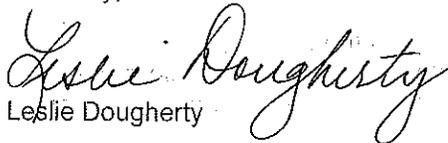
Dear Administrator Almanza:

I just finished reading about the horrifying inhumane treatment of downed calves at Catelli Brothers slaughter plant in Shrewsbury, New Jersey. I want to thank you for the agency's swift action in closing this plant. I also want to ask your support to fast track regulations to protect downed calves.

There is never an excuse for calves being abused, kicked, shocked, pulled by their tails and ears, or dragged with chains when they have broken legs, other injuries, or are simply too weak or sick to stand up. Downed calves should be afforded the mercy of immediate euthanasia rather than being handled in such abusive ways. These animals should be treated with the utmost respect and kindness -- they are giving their lives to provide food to the people of this country. If these atrocities are occurring at a federally-inspected plant in a major metropolitan area, what is happening at other slaughtering plants across the country?

I am aware that in 2009, the HSUS uncovered horrendous mistreatment of calves at Bushway slaughter plant in Vermont. The HSUS promptly filed a petition with the USDA to require that calves too injured, sick, or weak to stand be euthanized. Such a regulation is long overdue. Please act quickly to remedy a situation that so clearly needs your attention and effort. The USDA's own Office of Inspector General report found that the agency doesn't do enough to prevent inhumane handling and slaughter. Please listen to the public and your own internal auditors. I thank you for acting immediately and fast-tracking the regulation that will help downed calves.

Sincerely,


Leslie Dougherty