

The Honorable Representative

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senators

The U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative and Senators:

As an American citizen, I am embarrassed Secretary of Agriculture Edward W. Schafer represents my country. One imagines the recent Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. undercover video that led to a recall of 143,383,823 pounds of beef would initiate a permanent no-downer law.

One hopes a humiliated USDA would rally behind an enforceable ban on the transport and slaughter of ALL downer animals — after one animal guy with a video camera exposed their lax food-safety protocol.

But they'd be wrong. At a 2/28/08 hearing to assess food inspection blunders, Secretary of Agriculture Edward W. Schafer asked the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to strike down a ban on slaughter of downer cows.

He even claimed it's okay for downer cattle to occasionally enter the food supply. Perhaps, but it's certainly a gamble. And such sentiment fails to address the sheer torture these animals endure as they're kicked, rammed, shocked, dragged, water-hosed and rolled. Apparently cheap meat comes with a hefty price tag: Utter inhumanity.

As your constituent, I implore you to stand up for what is right. Please protect animals and people with your strong support for the **Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act (H.R. 661/ S. 394)**, which bans slaughter of downer cows, pigs, sheep and all "livestock."

The Hallmark Meat travesty is not about one bad slaughterplant. It's about a bad system. Please help fix it by:

- Co-sponsoring the **Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act (HR 661/ S 394)**.
- Requiring humane euthanasia for all downer animals. A current loophole lets immobilized animals suffer until they undergo USDA inspection.
- Forbidding use of downed animals for "pet" and "livestock" foods.
- Co-sponsoring the Farm Animal Stewardship Purchasing Act (HR 1726) to install basic animal protections at producers selling food to federal programs.
- Requiring training to prevent animals from becoming downers in the first place.

This issue is of great concern to me. Please inform me of your stance on downer legislation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,