



UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT  
March 20, 2008

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND  
POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Ms. Ruth Arotsky  
Saving Opus One  
452 Middletown Avenue  
New Haven, Connecticut 06513-1006

Dear Ms. Arotsky:

Thank you for your thoughtful note. I appreciate having the benefit of your views on this important issue, and I share your support for ensuring that downer animals are treated humanely and do not enter our food supply.

Under current law, euthanized animals cannot be sold for human consumption, which leads many ranchers to keep sick and suffering animals alive so they can be sold to stockyards for a high financial gain. These animals can be forced to suffer as they wait to be sent to slaughter. Once they reach the slaughterhouse, if sick animals are unable to walk, they are deemed to be nonambulatory or "downer" animals. However, with the exception of cattle, there is no prohibition on allowing nonambulatory livestock to be slaughtered and processed for human consumption. As a result, many of these animals can enter our food supply each year.

In previous Congresses I have been a supporter of the Downed Animal Protection Act, and you will be pleased to know that I am once again a cosponsor of this bill, which has been reintroduced under a new name—the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act. This bill would permanently ban the slaughter of downed animals for human consumption. Moreover, it would also end the suffering downer animals are forced to endure on their way to a slaughterhouse by requiring that sick animals be humanely euthanized as soon as they become unable to walk.

I believe this is a humane measure necessary to ensure that unhealthy, high risk downed animals never enter the food supply. Although this bill is currently pending before the House Agriculture Committee, you can be sure I will continue to support this legislation should it come before the full House for a vote.

Thank you again for contacting me and sharing the information about Saving Opus One. Your project provides valuable information to Connecticut residents and American consumers. Please do not hesitate to contact me again if I can be of any assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,

  
ROSA L. DELAURO  
Member of Congress