

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE INQUIRY

Re: "Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2010".

From: Kathryn Stanislawski
(...)

I would like register my support for the "Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2010".

The current labelling laws do not require manufacturers to clearly label their products and enable consumers to choose products which do not contain palm oil.

I was horrified a few years ago when I saw a documentary about rainforest clearing to grow trees for palm oil production and the impact that was having on orang-utan populations.

Since that time I have only been able to find a few products on the market which clearly state that they do not contain palm oil (eg. Aware detergent and Country Life soap). Even looking for the more "natural" type products such as soaps and shampoos from health food stores or markets I came across products that contained palm oil. And, the more research I did, the more I realised just how many products actually contain palm oil in one form or another and labelled inconspicuously.

The documentary I watched finished with an Asian government representative saying that it is our extreme demand for palm oil that drives the market and that if we disagree with the practice then we all need to protest with our purchasing power - by choosing alternate products.

Until then I didn't realise I was demanding a product that was causing so much devastation. In fact, I felt that products that contain palm oil were somewhat "natural" and a good choice.

We need to publicise further the impacts of our palm oil demand to Asian rainforests and its dependent fauna like orang-utans, and we **MUST** have products that contain it labelled clearly.