

Re: Food standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling - Palm Oil) Bill

Hello Senators,

I am writing to put forward my view that truth in labeling for product ingredients such as palm oil should be mandatory. The consumer requires clear and readable words and signs on packaging that show whether or not it contains palm oil and show if the palm oil is sourced in a completely sustainable way.

Consumers are more likely nowadays to only purchase products that contain sustainably and ethically produced palm oil. The destruction of native forests in SE Asia for the establishment of palm plantations is well documented. The impact that this habitat destruction is having on Orangutan families and Sumatran Tigers is also widely known.

Truth in labeling will reward those producers of sustainable ingredients and that will make ethical best practice the standard to be expected for foods as well as cleaning products, soaps etc. Keeping natural forest cover is also extremely important for flood mitigation and for its role in absorbing CO₂.

Healthy and ethical choices made available to consumers is a commendable way to advance food standards for Australians. The switch to sustainable farming of palm oil will benefit the communities overseas and will assist those in the supply chain here in Australia to trade in foods and other products that are not detrimental to the environment.

Regards

Mr David Menzies