



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Humane Society International Inc.
ABN 63 510 927 032

PO Box 439
Avalon NSW 2107
Australia

Telephone (612) 9973 1728
Facsimile (612) 9973 1729
Email admin@hsi.org.au

www.hsi.org.au

Committee Secretariat
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

8 August 2011

Dear Committee Secretariat,

Re: Inquiry into the *Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2011.*

Humane Society International (HSI) wishes to provide an exhibit alongside our earlier submission (Submission number 167 to the prior Inquiry into the *Food Standards Amendment Truth in Labelling Laws Bill 2009*) in April, 2010, and in response to the Economics Committee's current inquiry into the *Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2011.*

Exhibit (enclosed)

Earth's Green Heart trilogy: Asia's Disappearing Green Heart, A personal journey through the forests of Asia
Steve Oliver Taylor, Green Heart Films 2010

Reaffirming our submission, HSI supports the mandatory labelling of all products containing palm oil.

The conversion of land for oil palm plantations by the clearing of tropical forests and peat swamps has massive ecological consequences, on both a global and local scale. Oil palm plantations are essentially monocultures that have replaced forests with an immense diversity of shrubs, trees, vines, mosses and other plants, and which lack the food resources most animals require to survive.

HSI, along with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other conservation organisations, part funded the documentary, *Asia's Disappearing Green Heart*, in hopes that the film would help raise attention to the issues surrounding threats to unique and endangered wildlife and rich biodiversity of equatorial forests, one of which is palm oil plantations.

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The exhibit enclosed, *Asia's Disappearing Green Heart*, provides insight into the consequences of palm oil plantations and the need for greater awareness into sustainable forestry. HSI encourages all committee members to watch this documentary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require anything further.

Yours Sincerely,



Melanie Dulfer-Hyams
Program Officer
Humane Society International