

SUBMISSION 2

To: Committee, Economics (REPS)
Subject: Submission: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2011

Although I made a submission to the Senate Committee Enquiry on the *Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2011*, I would like to summarise as follows:

- 1) The destruction of rainforest in Southeast Asia and elsewhere threatens to cause widespread extinctions of fauna and flora.
- 2) Overwhelmingly the main cause of rainforest destruction is its replacement by oil palm plantations.
- 3) Chief among the species threatened are the two species of orangutan, which are, after chimpanzees (including bonobos) and gorillas, our closest living relatives.
- 4) Other mammal species threatened by the critically endangered Sumatran rhinoceros (surviving, precariously, on both Sumatra and Borneo) and Sumatran tiger.
- 5) Rainforest destruction pours greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, intensifying global warming.
- 6) Awareness and concern about the role of palm oil in contributing to rainforest destruction is slowly spreading in the community.
- 7) Concerned members of the general public need information on which products contain palm oil so that they can avoid purchasing them.

Yours sincerely
Colin Groves

Professor Colin Groves
