

Dear Senators,

I am writing to register my support for the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2009 shortly to be considered by the Senate Committee.

I am personally concerned by the damage to important habitat resulting from the clearing of natural forests to plant palm oil plantations. I would like to be able to make sure I am not contributing to the problem by buying products containing palm oil. I can't do this unless such products are labelled.

I would support products containing palm oil that was produced sustainably (as certified by a reputable body), but this will not happen until manufacturers are required to disclose their use of palm oil.

Since palm oil is also high in saturated fats compared to other vegetable oils, it is also beneficial that consumers with health risks or health preferences are able to choose products made using vegetable oils lower in saturated fats.

Please respect the wishes of many Australians in mandating labelling that allows us to choose.

Regards

Susan Rushworth