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Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

As a consumer, I have the right to make an informed decision about the products I buy. This bill gives me the basic right to know; to know whether my food, cosmetics and household purchases are contributing to the destruction of 300 football fields of forest every hour, to know if I am paying for the weekly death of 50 orangutans.

The unfortunate reality is that modern society exists at the expense of the environment. Whilst in many ways this is an unavoidable cost, the proposed bill is a perfect example of a situation in which the impact on the environment can be lessened and we can progress towards a more sustainable existence.

Forty percent of our supermarket food contains palm oil, yet only eight percent comes from sustainable sources. For a civilised and educated society, these facts seem particularly archaic.

This bill is neither extreme nor unreasonable. It simply creates transparency and provides consumers with a choice.

Jacqui Brenner