

Dear Senators

I wish to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

I support the mandatory labelling of palm oil on all food products. The reason for my support is that I wish to be able to make informed choices about the products I purchase and feed to myself and my family. The current regime which allows palm oil to be labelled as vegetable oil prevents this.

I wish to avoid the purchase of palm oil products for two main reasons.

1. Palm oil is high in saturated fat, unlike many other vegetable oils. I do not wish to eat saturated fat or feed it to my family as it is bad for your health and contributes to heart disease, stroke and obesity.

2. The production of palm oil as it is currently carried out is destroying the habitat of Orang-utans and other wildlife at an alarming rate. The United Nations predicts Orang-utans will be extinct within a generation if the current clearing practices continue. I do not wish to participate in the extinction of the Orang-utans by unknowingly purchasing palm oil.

If palm oil was labelled consumers could demand manufacturers use properly certified sustainable palm oil which would drive a market for this product.

Please do not sit by and let the Orang-utans become extinct when you have the power to make a major difference to this species' fate.

Suzi Jenkin