

5th April 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee Secretary,

I believe you should legislate the labeling of palm oil in all food products. Please legislate the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

Palm oil is in one in four food products that we buy. Most of the global supply comes from Indonesia and Malaysia – the only place where orangutans live. It's a tragic fact that every year an estimated 1,000 Orangutans die because of palm oil. We don't know if palm oil is in our food because it's not labeled properly which means we don't have the right to choose food products that won't destroy Orangutan habitat.

Most of the palm oil that ends up in our food is unsustainably harvested. In fact, only eight percent of the global supply of palm oil comes from sustainable RSPO certified sources. A sustainable palm oil industry that does not destroy anymore virgin rainforest is a reality. The industry just needs to use land that has already been cleared. But right now there isn't the demand for palm oil that is produced this way.

We have a right to know whether the products we buy contain palm oil. However without legislation change, palm oil will remain unlabelled and we just won't know if the food products we are buying are pushing orangutans to extinction.

The power is in your hands, please ensure we receive mandatory labeling of any product that has palm oil in it and allow us to save these amazing apes. We have the power to make a difference here.

Kind regards,

Sharna Aquilina