

To Whom It May Concern.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to give my support for the Food Standards Amendment Bill 2009 (Truth in labelling Palm Oil).

My family and I are frequent travellers to the island of Borneo in Malaysia and have just returned from our 12th visit there. We have been made well aware of the plight of the endangered orangutan species and of many other species of animals that have been affected by the introduction of palm oil plantations. It is quite obvious to any traveller flying in to Borneo or even Kuala Lumpur when they look out of the window of the plane that palm oil plantations are everywhere and continue to spread.

The beautiful, natural vegetation is being removed so that Palm Oil trees can be planted and in doing so the homes of so many wonderful animal species are being destroyed. Orangutan rehabilitation centres are being set up throughout the island of Borneo to take in to care many homeless orangutans. Many of these animals have been injured due to this clearing of the vegetation and in some cases Palm Oil Plantation workers have been responsible for injuring and maiming some of these animals.

The area we visit each year is along the Kinabatangan River in Sabah and on each trip we see more and more land being cleared for yet more of these plantations. Not only are orangutans disappearing from these areas but also many other animal species. On one of our visits a few years ago I was shocked when we were shown the carcasses of two elephants that had been shot by plantation workers. At that time the situation was been investigated but no more was heard about the incident. How many other animals will meet a similar fate if they venture onto the land where the palm plantations now occupy but which used to be their home.

I have taken my grandchildren to see the endangered orangutan as well as many other endangered animals in the same area. They as well as all of our family feel that there will be none left for anyone to view if this destruction of their habitat continues.

We have tried to educate as many people as we possibly can to what is happening in Malaysia and Indonesia but all people need to be made aware of the destruction and also about Palm Oil itself and what it is used for.

The introduction of this amendment bill to allow for products to be correctly labelled indicating any presence of palm oil is a necessity and needed urgently.

Julie Taylor.