

RE: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

I would like to put forward my strong professional and personal support for this bill.

Over 85% of the world's palm oil comes from Malaysia and Indonesia, and the most common cause of deforestation and fragmentation in Indonesia is related to palm oil development. Palm oil is found in about 40 percent of the food products on our supermarket shelves and its widespread cultivation is destroying the Orangutan's habitat at an alarming rate. Palm oil typically costs the lives of up to 50 Orangutans each week. The United Nations has warned that Orangutans could be extinct within a generation if we don't act quickly.

Australians unknowingly consume on average 10 kilograms of palm oil each year because we do not currently have the ability to exercise consumer choice. Palm oil from certified sustainable RSPO sources currently only accounts for 8 percent of the global supply of palm oil. Once palm oil is labeled, consumers can actually drive a market for proper certified sustainable palm oil because they can demand it of manufacturers (as we have seen with Fair Trade and Rainforest Alliance products).

Kind regards,

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