

20 April 2010

Senate Committee on Community Affairs
community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

I support the mandatory labeling of palm oil for two main reasons:

1. My profession is to conserve biodiversity and to alleviate the processes threatening wildlife. The main cause of habitat loss and the biggest threat to orang-utan's in Malaysia and Indonesia is related to palm oil development. Every hour in South East Asia, land equal to 300 football fields is cleared for palm oil production. The United Nations has warned that orang-utans could become extinct within ten years if we don't act quickly. I want the choice to choose food products that do not contain palm oil and save the orang-utans from extinction.
2. Palm oil is made up of over 50% saturated fat which can increase the risk of coronary heart disease. Currently I am unaware whether I am purchasing and consuming food high in saturated fat if palm oil is used as a key ingredient. For health reasons, I want the choice to choose food products that are not high in saturated fat.

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

Regards,

Lian Wilson