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April 21 2010

**Submission on the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2009.**

I support the mandatory labelling of palm oil because it is the most effective way that tropical habitat can be saved.

I do not wish to purchase products that contribute to destruction of tropical habitat and conversion to palm oil plantations.

Destruction of tropical rainforest is a major health issue, because it is a cause of climate change. Rainforests mitigate the destructive effects of CO2 emissions and help to regulate a safe climate.

Climate change will impact some of the poorest people in the world.

We already require sustainable timber to be certified, so why not label food products.

Unfortunately, palm oil is produced in countries where governance is not as high as in Australia and New Zealand.

Labelling of palm oil is not an onerous or costly requirement on producers.

Requiring the labelling of palm-oil will create consumer choice in the market. Consumers can choose the products that reflect their values, as they already do for toilet paper.

Orang-utans are critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. They are one of the closest relatives to *homo sapiens*. More people are born in one day than the entire global population of orang-utan.

I cannot in good conscious, stand by while remaining orang-utans are being decimated in our neighbourhood.

I commend this bill to the committee as a simple, cost-effective way that deepens market choice, improves biodiversity and will go a long way to help to save an important species.

Sincerely,

Chris Goodman