

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in relation to the 'Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling –Palm Oil) Bill 2009'. I have seen first hand the devastating affects that Palm oil has on the environment, in particular to the people and animals who rely on the natural forests in Borneo and Sumatra which are being decimated all in the name of Palm oil production. The attached photographs were taken in Sumatra in January of this year and show how much lowland forest (important habitat for endangered species such as Orangutan, Elephant, Gibbon, Siamang and Sumatran Tiger just to name a few) has been lost to palm oil plantations. The conflict that occurs when animals come into contact with plantations and their owners is another devastating byproduct of the Palm oil industry. Attached are photographs of just a few of the infants that have been orphaned as a result of palm oil conflict (nb for every infant in these pictures there is a murdered mother Orangutan). On top of this there is recent evidence to suggest that the excessive amounts of pesticides and fertilizers used on palm oil plantations is seriously polluting waterways, destroying fish populations and affecting other aquatic species.

The evidence to support the notion that palm oil is an unsustainable, unviable ecologically unsound product continues to grow. We need **not** more evidence, but rather more action and greater responsibility taken to rectify the damage that has already been done. Furthermore we need a commitment to prevent additional Palm Oil related devastation.

In recent years there has been much noise generated about the impacts of the palm oil industry, and we have seen some big businesses move away from Palm oil as a cheap vegetable oil ingredient in their products (eg Cadbury, Lush etc) as a result of public pressure. In order for consumers to truly exercise their rights, labeling of palm oil **MUST** be made mandatory. As a consumer I feel my right to preferentially choose and avoid certain ingredients is being denied due to inadequacies in the labeling standards.

I implore you to enforce the mandatory labeling of Palm oil.

I would be happy to talk further on this matter if required.

Kind regards
Annaleis Martin