

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

My name is Sonia Singh and I choose to not ignore the destruction of the environment due to palm oil use. The use of palm oil is getting harder to fight against, there is so much consumer demand that companies simply will not listen to the plight of the inhabitants of these forests if it means that they will benefit financially. Environmental erosion and the dwindling of animal populations simply do not matter to these people. But what if consumers had a choice? What if they were aware that the products they bought contribute to this destruction and needless killing? Wouldn't the voice of the consumer market be a stronger force than those like me who simply want to keep orangu-tans, gibbons and other animals calling these forests home, safe? To put it simply, biodiversity is as important to the continuation of earth as it is to human beings and to ruin rainforests and their inhabitants affects the life cycle and the longer we continue dislocating the environment from its natural relationships the more we put our own lives at risk in due time. This is why it is important to act now, to make a change and hopefully set a standard in Australia to show the world that we don't stand for that, we're going to be honest with consumers on what they're buying and supporting and we're going to set some things in motion to change whats been happening for too long. I come to this fight from a personal level, I have no gains, I could idly sit back and not care about what is happening is far away countries but I cannot, I know that it effects me to see the environment being eroded as it has been and consumers who are not bad people, supporting an organisation that will only harm our future generations. I hope this bill is passed, I really hope that the food standards authority for Australia and New Zealand become the first to recognise the problems supporting palm oil being used in our foods under names such as 'vegetable oil' cause and sets the wheel in motion for other countries to follow through.

Sincerely,

Sonia Singh