

Scott Killeen

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To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of the proposed bill Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

It's hard to believe that each day we are contributing to the demise of orang-utans and that now we stand to lose orang-utans from the wild within our lifetime.

Harder to believe is the simple fact that we can do something to prevent this tragedy.

So many everyday food products contain palm oil, yet we cannot tell. It is seldom labeled as palm oil but instead by a range of other names. As consumers how can we make informed choices without the information?

I want the choice to select food products that are not harming orang-utans and other forest wildlife. Without this bill, I will not have that choice.

I have been fortunate enough to see orang-utans in the wild, whilst developing the Orang-utan Sanctuary exhibit at Melbourne Zoo. It was during this project that I gained an appreciation for these remarkable animals. They are intelligent; each is a unique individual with their own personality. They share over 95% of our genetic make-up; they're a lot like us. But unlike us, orang-utans cannot choose whether they will lose their forest home or not. We should have that choice, and yet current labeling legislation denies us this choice.

I ask that you pass this bill so that I, and all other Australians, have the choice to purchase food products that do not contribute to the extinction of these miraculous animals.

Kind regards

Scott Killeen