

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Megan Lewis and I am emailing to show my support for the Food Standard Amendment (Truth in Labelling Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

With my university degree in Environmental Science and in my current employment as a zookeeper this is an issue which I strongly support.

While palm oil is an extremely useful and productive crop it's use and associated manufacturing needs regulation. Globally we are consuming this product at an alarming rate and the consequences of this action must be scrutinised. Not only are their social impacts regarding the workers and traditional land owners on which the plantations are found, but also the effect on the natural environment and wildlife. There are species, such as the Borneo Orangutan and Sumatran Tiger, which are critically endangered that need the protection of their habitat in order to survive. I understand that the harvesting and manufacturing of palm oil is going to continue to service our food and cosmetic needs, however, we must legislate that these practices are undertaken on a sustainable level. For animals such as the Sumatran Tiger (who's population may be as few as 400)there can be no delay in developing and maintaining sustainable palm oil plantations.

Yours faithfully

Megan Lewis