

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support for the Inquiry into Food Standards Amendment  
(Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

There are many important reasons on why this bill is so important.

First and foremost, as it states in the bill, it is the right of the consumer to be provided with accurate and truthful information on the ingredients in their foods. Every consumer should have the opportunity to make informed decisions on the food products they are buying and eating. Consumers have the right to know that their foods contain palm oil as they do with any other ingredient, and they have the right to have the opportunity to make decisions that they deem to be more ethical. The mandatory labelling of palm oil would allow the creation of consumer driven demand for sustainable palm oil and open up many opportunities for manufacturers in Australia as it would allow sustainable palm oil to become more accessible and affordable. Having a label 'Certified Sustainable Palm Oil' may also be of benefit to food manufacturers, as this may drive ethically motivated people toward their products.

The other main reason to label foods is the health benefit. Palm oil is full of saturated fat 55% that is very unhealthy. We should have the right to choose healthy food. Please let us have the choice today it will not cost much for this to happen.

The final reason to have labels state that a food contains palm oil is environmental. Palm oil is a short term cash crop that is causing massive environmental damage. The CO<sub>2</sub> that is caused by land clearing for palm oil is worse than all of Australia's in a year. This is something I wish to not be a part of. By having it on food labels I get to decide.

Please make this happen asap.

Regards

Andrew Griffiths