

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill, 2009.

My name is Natalie Chan. I am a post graduate student who is studying to become a counsellor, and I am a strong supporter of the mandatory labelling of oil for a number of personal reasons.

Firstly, to label palm oil (which is high in saturated fats) as a vegetable oil means my ability to make informed choices in regards to my health is impaired. Not all vegetable oils are detrimental, but with current labelling standards I am unable to tell exactly what kinds of "vegetable" oils I would be purchasing.

Secondly, and more significantly, the farming of palm oil in Asian countries such as Indonesia is at present not sustainable. The clearing of land which are habitats for endangered animals would mean I would be violating my ecological values and beliefs every

time I unknowingly buy foods that contain palm oil, and not taking action to create farming solutions that are less damaging.

As a result, environmental impact this land clearing would create chain effects that are detrimental to the global environment. In the short term future, the continued clearing of land would be disastrous for the atmosphere in terms of the carbon cycle, as saplings do not provide as much oxygen as mature forests. The removal of top predators such as tigers would have an effect on the whole food chain, and the killing orangutans means we are contributing towards the extinction one of our closest genetic relatives. By buying products that contain palm oil, I am behaving unethically but without my knowledge.

Please legislate to correctly label food products that contain palm oil so I am able to make informed choices relating to my health and the preservation of the natural world. Much thanks.

Sincerely,
Natalie Chan