

Senate Community Affairs Committee
Inquiry into the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling – Palm Oil) Bill
2009
Department of the Senate
community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

To the Senate Committee on Community Affairs,

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

The reasons for my support for the Bill are detailed below.

- **Deforestation.** Land clearing and habitat loss for oil palm production has a severe impact on the natural environment and the wildlife that it supports. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has identified palm oil as the major driver of deforestation in Borneo and Sumatra, and the biggest threat to the survival of the Orang utan. It is estimated that over 50 Orang utans die each week as a direct result of an unsustainable palm oil industry and it is predicted that this species will be extinct in 10 years time if we do not act now.
- **Sustainable palm oil.** I support a sustainable palm oil industry. Consumer awareness and influence can support this. Mandatory labelling will allow consumers to make an informed decision encouraging a market for certified sustainable palm oil.

I want the choice to select food products that are not harming orang-utans and other wildlife. Without this bill, I will not have that choice. I strongly support the *Food Standards Amendment – Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil*.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Duffy
May 2010