

Mr Pieter Spencer

July 15, 2010

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you with concerned interest and support regarding the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009 as introduced by Senators Xenophon, Bob Brown and Joyce.

I am fully aware of the six principal issues for consideration by the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 15 June 2010 and embrace the change that will prevail the current unsatisfactory legislation.

My interest in the issue is two fold:

1. Personally, the fact that as a consumer I am not privileged to read on a packet what ingredients constitute the food I am purchasing makes me very uncomfortable and frustrated as a tax payer. My health is important to me as I am now a father of two and I want to be in good health for my kids as I grow older. I am always conscious of the “high in saturated fat” foods and the impact of these on the human body, such as those containing palm oil. I also commend Cadbury who have make an effort to eliminate this ingredient from some of their products.
2. Most importantly I find it utterly disgusting that we (Australians) unknowingly promote the rape and pillage of orang-utan habitat which also must have a subsequent environmental impact.

There must be a way to make this product sustainable without impact to the environment and wildlife that calls the rainforests that are destroyed “home”.

As a consumer I would be happy to pay more for a sustainable product.

I hope someone important takes the time to read this letter and it does “make a difference”, and look forward to the 15 June 2010 with the pending result.

Sincerely,

Pieter Spencer