

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009 to voice my support for the mandatory labelling of palm oil. I have been a vegetarian for many years now because of my strong belief in the rights of animals and I do not purchase products that are tested on animals or otherwise contribute to cruelty towards animals. I have studied zoology at the University of Adelaide and in the future, it is my hope that I will be able to work with orangutans and other endangered species to help protect them from extinction. However, the current conditions of palm oil production lead me to fear that orangutans may become extinct in the wild despite my efforts and the work of so many others. I find it horrific that I do not have the freedom to make this choice where it concerns palm oil and the welfare of orangutans and other forms of wildlife that live in Indonesia and Malaysia, thus I am asking for your help. Please push for mandatory labelling of palm oil so that these wonderful creatures have a chance to survive in their natural habitat. As it stands, palm oil production is largely unsustainable in addition to being harmful, so we need to act now in order to protect wild animals and the environment in which they live. If we fail to take action, we will lose so much, yet we will gain nothing. What will we do when we simply "run out" of land? Will we have to look for a new area to destroy, harming even more species? How long can this go on? This needless destruction needs to end, and you have the power to help us. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Danika Smith