

**Food Standards Amendment
(Truth in labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009**

16th April 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing in support of the campaign to require the labelling of food products containing palm oil to indicate this fact specifically rather than under the general guise of vegetable oils. We do this on two grounds:

- We believe consumers have the right to know exactly what products are contained in the foods they buy and the possible health implications of such products. To be labelled under the guise of 'vegetable oils' is, we believe, misleading and, according to information we have received, palm oil is quite high in saturated fats and therefore has potential health risks. If products are properly labelled then consumers will be able to make an informed choice when purchasing.
- Under current production practises in Asia palm oil production is having a profound impact on the rainforest environment. We have been able to witness first hand in Asia both pristine rainforest with its amazingly rich diversity of plant, animal and insect life and the virtually lifeless monoculture of palm oil plantations already covering huge tracts of land previously covered by rainforest. Further clearing of land continues apace. We believe that with revised practices and wiser planning palm oil can be produced sustainably without further dramatic impact on what is a vitally important yet fast disappearing natural habitat and the vital role it plays in the lives of both mankind and the diversity of animal and plant life living within.

The labelling of palm oil products is, we believe, a small yet vital step towards achieving improved outcomes for consumers, encouraging improved practices in production and, as a consequence, conserving rainforest for the benefit of both mankind and the animals dependent upon it.

We therefore sincerely ask that you give serious consideration to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

John Holman
Elaine Holman