

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Re; Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

I am making a submission to the committee in show of support for the mandatory labelling of palm oil in food and consumer products. My interest in this issue is of a personal nature. I was horrified to learn of the grossly inhumane way in which Orang-utans are treated during the destruction of their natural habitat for the mass plantation of palm trees.

Surely the choice is clear. As a country of citizens that pride ourselves on civil and animal rights – we should have the right to choose. As a consumer I want the power to ensure that no animal will suffer in order to produce food or products that I use. My husband and I devote extra time every time we shop to thoroughly read labels and pride ourselves on choosing healthy, sustainable, responsible products as much as possible. We were so disappointed to learn that we have indirectly contributed to the death and suffering of animals due to a lack of knowledge about the production of palm oil. With this in mind, we hope that in the future labelling will be changed so that we can make an informed choice. Informed consumers have the power to change lives.

Faithfully,

Rebecca Chapman