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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to lend my support for the introduction of the **Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009**. In a society where each and every one of us is encouraged to take responsibility for the food choices we make, it would seem logical that we would be given the information we need to do that. We are a nation of obese people and anything we can do to make it easier for people to make healthy choices should be done. However, my biggest misgiving about our inability to accurately identify what products contain palm oil is that I am inadvertently contributing to the anthropogenic degradation of the environment. I am an Environmental Scientist and I recognize the importance of ensuring the survival of other species and the survival of the Orangutans of Indonesia and Malaysia depends on the actions we take now to protect their habitat. Labelling the inclusion of Palm Oil in our food products will be a step towards ensuring that palm oil plantations are managed in a sustainable manner. I want to one day be able to see, and for my two sons to be able to see, these beautiful creatures in their natural habitat. I am willing, if deemed necessary, to appear to give evidence before a Senate Committee hearing in Canberra.

Regards,

Natasha Bowden