

April 4th 2010

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

To the Senate Committee of Community Affairs,

On behalf of the Adelaide Veterinary Students Association, I would like to make known my support for the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

It is essential that the Australian public are able to actively choose the products they consume based on the content of Palm Oil. The Palm Oil industry is devastating large areas of rainforest in many parts of Asia. Zoos Victoria have correctly identified the Orang-utans as a species under direct threat from this loss of habitat, however there are many species who will be lead to extinction from the loss of this important ecosystem that will not reach media headlines.

As students of Veterinary Science, we have an interest in the welfare of species both large and small, in all regions of the world. By not supporting this change in legislation here in Australia we are allowing the rainforest destruction to continue without hinder, therefore depleting already low Orang-utan numbers.

Please consider the rights of all Australians to have the choice, and most importantly to play a role in the development of sustainable Palm Oil farming, as without pressure from developed nations such as our own change will not occur.

Yours Sincerely,

Chantelle Franklin
President of the Adelaide Veterinary Students Association