

To whom it may concern,

RE: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

I Alison Aldridge, support mandatory food labelling, specifically for palm oil.

Forget the warm and fuzzy reasons for the mandatory food labelling of palm oil. (although they are important) how about the fact that we know that food webs and ecosystems are linked. If you are doing something that has an affect on the population of one species either positively or negatively it will affect other parts of the systems and inevitably the system that looks after us.

Spokespeople from Woolworth's said that there are no other viable options available - Cadbury did it. The truth is it's about money and it is always about money. There will be a point when we can make a mistake so big (unintentionally) that it can have detrimental effects on our very own human species that we can't undo. You might say there is no evidence but what if evidence is too late. Start with what we know, we know changing one thing will affect another. So find an alternative and in the immediate future we will know that we are at least taking a step to save a species and probably taking a step to save our own. Billions of dollars in the bank will mean nothing if we are starving, suffocating, dying. That is the big picture, and you probably think what do I know. Well not much - I have a degree in wildlife biology, I have read what seems like a thousand text books and I still don't know enough to give you a specific answer but I do know that the potential consequences are not worth it.

Avoiding consequences is what we need to start with. Prevention not band aids. So let's start with the food labeling. Simple. It won't cost more in fact less. - Vegetable oil vs Palm Oil (less printing) But in all seriousness, if we are putting it in our mouth, or on our bodies we deserve to know what's in it. If there is any question, what vegetable? than it isn't clear enough. And that goes for all products - flavour enhancers - which ones???

People deserve to know what they eat, and they deserve to make choices based on that knowledge. And more importantly, wild animals deserve to live and not be tragically affected by our needs.

I will gladly give up some of my modern conveniences if it means my daughter and her daughter and her daughter etc. will have a rich life (and I am not talking money).

Give us all a chance to all have a rich life, not just the corporate ties and start with the small stuff. It's a start.

Please reply to this e-mail and tell me, assure me and prove to me that you are making choices that are best for everyone and everything - not just the banks.

Sincerely,

Alison Aldridge

31 years of age. Mother of 1. Afraid to be mother of more because of what's happening in this world. Not interested in torturing my babies.