

## **Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling- Palm Oil) Bill 2009**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the mandatory labelling of Palm Oil in products. It concerns me greatly that in Borneo, Orangutan habitat is being destroyed at alarmingly rapid rates, and the chance of survival for the species is becoming increasingly threatened. They may be extinct within 10 years if nothing is done.

We have an opportunity here. By doing something as simple as labelling palm oil on all products it is used in, and not hiding it under 'vegetable oil', consumers can make informed decisions on what they want to purchase. Purchasing products that contain palm oil that has come from these orangutan habitats is only supporting the companies and people that are allowing this horrific destruction to continue.

If we are to help minimise the damage, it starts with labelling. How are we supposed to know there is palm oil in products if it is not labelled? It is vital that palm oil is labelled on all products it is used in, so consumers can make informed decisions on whether or not they want to buy that product.

I cannot speak for everybody, but I certainly do not want to support the people and companies that are allowing the orangutan habitat to be destroyed.

However, I and everybody else, do not currently have a choice. We are unknowingly consuming and using products with palm oil, as it is in around 40% of everything we eat and use.

The survival of a beautiful species is threatened and we have an opportunity to do something about it. Mandatory labelling of palm oil may seem like a small and simple thing, and it is. This small change will allow us to make informed decisions about what we buy and what we are supporting. Why anybody would want to support the companies responsible for the orangutan habitat destruction is beyond me, yet so many of us are unknowingly doing this simply because we do not know what we are buying. We do not know what has palm oil in it, and this needs to change.

It really is a no-brainer. Label palm oil, and help protect the orangutan from extinction. We must act now before it is too late.

Sincerely,

Jessica Waters.