

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

This submission is to support the above bill which proposes clear labelling of whether products contain palm oil and whether that palm oil is sustainably produced. I am extremely concerned about the high levels of habitat destruction caused by the establishment of palm oil plantations. Having visited Borneo recently I have witnessed the vast palm oil plantations and seen many of the orang-utans made orphans by this rapacious industry.

I have two suggested amendments to this commendable Private Member's Bill:

- Proposed section 16B(2) - Further consideration needs to be given as to whether the RSPO represents the appropriate criteria for assessing whether palm oil has been sustainably produced. There have been several reports questioning the environmental credentials of this organisation, with the suggestion being that this industry-dominated body is producing what amounts to "greenwash". Perhaps a better form of words for subsection (2) might be the following:

(2) Regulations made for the purpose of certifying the sustainability of palm oil must reflect the criteria determined for that purpose by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil or other body internationally recognised as promoting ecological sustainability in palm oil production.

- Proposed subsection (6) does not make sense as it proposes a standard must be in operation within 28 days from the day the bill receives the Royal Assent. This seems to conflict with ss(1) which gives the Authority 6 months to prepare this standard. The subsection would make sense if "28 days" was replaced by "6 months".

Sincerely

Glenn Osboldstone
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