SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2010

SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION NUMBER: **461**

SUBMITTER

John Phillips

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In relation to the above bill I would like to think that it is a basic right for consumers to be provided with accurate and truthful information to enable them to make an informed choice about the products they are eating and purchasing. The government should ensure standards are introduced and enforced to ensure this. It is clearly not in the interests of consumers to “hide” ingredients in products and this practice should be stopped as it only supports unhealthy/unsustainable ingredients being used while misleading consumers/retailers/the government.

I also agree with the following principles and the government should take action to address them as it is in the interests of all Australians:

1. Allowing palm oil to be listed a "vegetable oil" on food packaging is misleading to consumers;
2. The adverse impact of palm oil production on wildlife, specifically Orangutan's in South East Asia is significant unless it is done sustainably;
3. Sustainable palm oil can be produced with low impact on the environment and wildlife and with better labour laws on plantations; and,
4. Manufacturers should be encouraged to use sustainable palm oil in their production process and subsequently use the status of "Certified Sustainable Palm Oil" under this Bill.

Could you please not be weak and represent us on something that should be very straightforward/commons sense. Please support the interests/health of the people that voted you in rather and those you represent rather than continuing to protect the interests of those with something to hide and those that want to mislead us, by not acting in support of this bill .

It's a real shame the that consumers have to go to these lengths in order to plead with politicians for something so simple (clear accurate labelling of ingredients) to be implemented in Australia.

Regards,
John Phillips.