SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION NUMBER: **471**

SUBMITTER

Name and Address Withheld

December 9, 2010

Department of the SenatePO Box 6100Parliament HouseCanberra ACT 2600Australia

Dear Sir/Madam
RE: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2010
At around this time last year, my partner and I decided that we would not eat anything that was not clearly labeled with the precise type of oil being used in manufacture. We additionally stated that we would not eat at any establishment that could not identify to us what type of cooking oil they used. We made this decision when we understood the devastation that was occurring globally to the habitat of many animals which was then leading to the decimation of many animals.
We have been very challenged in our quest to try and make a difference at the individual level. We have also had to reassess the viability of our quest because it is equally difficult for fair-minded traders to make a conscious and conscience effort in their choice of product.
Labeling in Australia does not allow us to choose items which will minimize the negative impact being wreaked upon many species of wildlife globally. Additionally it does not allow us to make a health choice for certain ingredients.
Many individuals would welcome better information about what they are consuming and its impact on both the environment and the various species with which we share this planet.
I implore the government to look at ways to implement this change to allow individuals to make an informed choice. That informed choice could make a difference to the immediate health of our population, ensure a better future for generations to come and maintain certain wildlife species.
I am sure that you are aware that time proven statistics reveal that for an individual to pick up a pen and write to any authority on a particular topic, reveals that there are at least ten others who hold the same sentiment; however apathy or lack of knowledge prevents many from expressing their view. I additionally hope that you take this statistic into account when you tally the number of responses you receive from individuals attempting to make positive change.
Yours truly,