



Murray Nixon, President/CEO
Murray's Ice Cream and Cookies
4120 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 14
Kansas City, MO 64111

August 11, 2008

Dear Murray Nixon,

I am writing to express concerns that your company, perhaps unwittingly, is contributing to climate change and the destruction of tropical rainforests around the world. The use of palm oil in soaps, cosmetics, food products and other consumer goods is a primary cause of human rights abuses, rampant deforestation, and destruction of critical habitat for endangered species. Time is running out for our climate and for tropical rainforests. We need your help.

New research has confirmed that the expansion of palm oil plantations is linked to the destruction of our climate and irreplaceable tropical ecosystems (see article for more background). Research by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that:

- Tropical rainforest destruction is responsible for one-fifth of current global greenhouse emissions. The leading cause of tropical deforestation in Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands is palm oil plantation expansion.
- Degradation of Indonesia's peat lands is one of the world's largest sources of greenhouse gas emission. Indonesia's 2.8 million hectares of degraded peat lands account for 1 percent of global emissions, a major reason for the country's status as the world's third-highest greenhouse gas emitter, behind China and the United States.

As a purchaser of palm oil, you are in a unique position to demand that the growers and traders of palm oil – companies such as Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Bunge, and Cargill – operate in a fair and ethical manner. Will you join us?

We don't have much time to waste. Global demand for palm oil is expected to double by 2030. A United Nations study warns that 98 percent of Indonesia's forests will be destroyed by 2022. Forests in other palm oil-producing regions face a similar fate. Caught in the crossfire are the people who rely on these forests for their homes and livelihoods, as well as countless plant and animal species that depend on intact forests for their survival. More than five million Indigenous people will be forced off their land by 2010 to create room for palm plantations, according to the United Nations. In Borneo, the orangutan population has fallen by 10 percent in just the last four years. In Sumatra, orangutan population levels have declined by 14 percent, largely due to palm oil expansion.

To make matters worse, there is little transparency in the supply chain for palm oil. Responsible consumers are typically unable to determine whether their palm oil was sourced from cleared rainforests, Indigenous territories, or endangered species habitat. Although efforts such as the Roundtable on Sus-

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tainable Palm Oil (RSPO) are underway to improve industry performance standards, those standards do not provide a clear, verifiable chain of custody, nor do they address greenhouse gas emissions or monitor actual compliance on the ground. In other words, there is no clear mechanism for Murray's Ice Cream and Cookies to verify environmental or social performance in your palm oil supply chain. This situation exposes your company to risks that will be difficult to manage.

We invite Murray's Ice Cream and Cookies to avoid isolating itself on the wrong side of this issue, and to make a pledge to protect rainforests, communities, and our climate from palm oil plantation destruction. Companies that use palm oil can ensure that rainforests, communities, and the climate are not sacrificed for the expansion of palm oil plantations. You can be part of the solution by phasing out the use of palm oil and switching to alternative oils until more responsible palm oil sources are made available. We ask you to join us in the following ways:

- Research your own supply chain and let us know who provides the palm oil that you use in your products.
- Contact your palm oil suppliers and tell them that if they are unable to provide a supply that can be independently verified as not being derived from recently cleared tropical rainforests, then you will find an alternative supplier and/or phase out palm oil from your products all together.
- Support the moratorium on palm oil expansion in tropical rainforests.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please respond with any questions or concerns by September 15 by either calling the number below or writing to theproblemwithpalmoil@ran.org. We will be informing our members and allies of your response. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Brune,
Executive Director
Rainforest Action Network