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FACT CHECK: Despite Sugar Lobby's Misleading Claims, Central American Sugar Growers *Want* U.S. Sugar Reform

The U.S. sugar-growing and processing lobby claims the U.S. sugar program has the strong support of some of the very countries whose sales into the U.S. market are artificially constrained by import quotas. If that strikes you as odd, that's because it is. A [May 30 letter](#) from the president of the Central American Sugar Association to Senate Agriculture Committee leaders tells the real story:

- *"On behalf of the Central American Sugar Association (AICA), which represents all sugar growers, workers and millers in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama), I would like to take this opportunity to clarify our position regarding the Farm Bill in light of **recent communications claiming they speak for us and conveying positions that have no bearing on our true stance.**"*
- *"We firmly believe that **this Farm Bill provides a unique opportunity to improve the sugar program...**"*
- *"... **USDA should be empowered to administer the program with flexibility and be able to establish the [TRQ] amount it deems fit for the U.S. market ... The requirement that 85% of the sugar in the US be produced domestically is both groundless and not achievable...**"*
- *"...We feel **change is overdue** and believe there are options that are acceptable to all parties involved which warrant the consideration of the Senate and deserve to be addressed on the floor as the Farm Bill is discussed..."*

To read the letter, click [here](#).

Congress – Reform Outdated Sugar Policies in the 2012 Farm Bill!

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy in the 2012 Farm Bill at www.sugarreform.org.

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The Coalition for Sugar Reform is an alliance of consumers, food and beverage manufacturers, trade advocates, environmental groups, taxpayer watchdog organizations, responsible government advocates, think tanks and other interests. Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.