



July 10, 2013

CT Business Leaders: “Sugar Program Costly To Industry, Consumers”

[Letter to the Editor in The Courant – July 3, 2013](#)

By Gene Dunkin, Chief Executive Officer, Thompson Brands, LLC, and Joe Vittoria, President & CEO, Pez Candy, Inc.

- *“This year’s farm bill would have changed nearly every federally operated commodity program except the outrageous sugar program.*
- *“The federal government has subsidized the sugar industry for years by restricting competition, guaranteeing minimum prices and buying surplus sugar at a huge loss to taxpayers. The resulting artificially inflated sugar prices mean consumers pay more at the store for everything from Connecticut-made candy treats to spaghetti sauce.*
- *“We applaud Reps. Jim Himes and Elizabeth Esty, who voted for the sugar reform amendment, a vote for 550 Connecticut confectionery manufacturing jobs and 6,000 sugar-using food manufacturing jobs.*
- *“The sugar program is failed policy that threatens Connecticut businesses, growth and job creation. We encourage Reps. John Larson, Joe Courtney and Rosa DeLauro to remember that while no sugar is grown here, many constituents are harmed by this special interest boondoggle. We ask them to reconsider sugar reform and join Reps. Himes and Esty to put jobs before politics and taxpayers before lobbyists.”*

Click [here](#) to read the full letter.

Only Congress can fix a program that hurts U.S. consumers, taxpayers, food manufacturers and their workers with simple reforms to the Farm Bill.

Sugar Program Reform Must Be a Part of Any New Farm Bill!

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy 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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.