



PRESS RELEASE

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Los Angeles Candy Company Calls on Congress to Reform the Costly U.S. Sugar Program in the 2012 Farm Bill

Says Current Sugar Policy 'Empowers Foreign Competitors at the Expense of U.S. Manufacturers'

Washington, DC – As Congress moves forward with the 2012 Farm Bill with no debate on the costs of U.S. sugar policy to American consumers, businesses and workers, a local Los Angeles employer, with 80 years in business, is calling on policymakers to reform the outdated sugar program. In a [video message to Congress](#), John Brooks, Jr., Vice President of Adams & Brooks, Inc., tells lawmakers reforms are necessary to ensure a level playing field for U.S. sugar-using companies. Designed during the Great Depression as a federal government program to support sugar growers, the program has long outlived its usefulness. The program, which has artificially driven U.S. sugar prices to an all-time high – 50 percent or more above the world price – has forced U.S. consumers and manufacturers to pay an extra \$14 billion since 2009.

“Sugar policy is destructive. It is one that empowers foreign competition at the expense of U.S. manufacturers,” said Brooks. “We have a factory in Mexico, because we are obligated to recognize the practical realities of where our costs come from. And if we want to make candy and use sugar, we have an unignorable economic incentive to manufacture that product outside of the U.S. ... It’s time to change [the U.S. sugar] program.” To see what else Brooks had to say, click [here](#).

The high cost of U.S. sugar compared to world prices has forced some manufacturers to import sugar-containing products or move plants and factories offshore.

- An estimated 125,000 jobs were lost in U.S. sugar-using industries between 1997 and 2010. The U.S. Department of Commerce also estimates that for every sugar-growing job saved through high U.S. sugar prices, approximately three American manufacturing jobs are lost.
- Only 4,714 sugar farms in the United States benefit from the federal sugar program, and 30% of the sugar program’s benefits go to just 6% of these sugar crop growers. In contrast, there are more than 600,000 U.S. jobs in food industries that use sugar.

“While some policymakers seem committed to advancing the 2012 Farm Bill without any debate of the sugar program and its costs, local confectioners like Adams & Brooks, Inc., are calling for meaningful reform,” said Larry Graham, Chairman of the Coalition for Sugar Reform. “At a time when there are across-the-board cuts being imposed on other U.S. commodities, it is confounding that lawmakers would give the sugar program special status, especially when it comes at such a high cost to U.S. consumers, businesses and workers. We

urge both houses of Congress to consider and hold open debate on the costs of the sugar program and the merits of reform.”

For more information about U.S. sugar policy and why reform is long overdue to protect the nation’s consumers, food manufacturers, and small businesses, visit www.SugarReform.org.

About the Coalition for Sugar Reform:

The Coalition for Sugar Reform (www.SugarReform.org) represents consumer, trade, and commerce groups, manufacturing associations, and food and beverage companies that use sugar – including confectioners, bakers, cereal manufacturers, beverage makers and dairy companies – as well as the trade associations for these industries.

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