



September 9, 2013

## Los Angeles Times Editorial Makes Case for Sugar Reform

### Editorial: Cashing in on Uncle Sam's Sweet Tooth

*September 9, 2013*

Excerpt:

- *"Federal efforts to protect growers of sugar beets and sugar cane epitomize everything that's wrong with U.S. farm programs. At times they've artificially raised the price of sugar, costing consumers billions of dollars; at other times they've stuck taxpayers with the bill for the surplus sugar production they've promoted.*
- *"... [W]hile other farmers are typically offered subsidized crop insurance ... and guarantees against steep reductions in revenue, beet and cane farmers are also protected by import and production quotas that limit supply, deter competition and inflate prices.*
- *"Their trade associations argue that the sugar program offsets foreign governments' sugar subsidies ... They also say it doesn't cost taxpayers a dime, ignoring the effect that artificially high sugar prices have on taxpayers' cost of living. And the program does have a cost to the Treasury when ... growers ... unload surplus sugar onto the federal government in lieu of repaying their federal loans and forcing Washington to sell the sweetener below cost to ethanol producers. In fact, both of those things are happening this year.*
- *"... [B]ipartisan efforts to weaken protections for sugar growers fell short in the House by a vote of 206 to 221 and in the Senate by a vote of 45 to 54. It's worth noting that the House amendment would have passed easily if not for opposition from 74 lawmakers from states with no sugar growers, as well as 30 House members from California who have no sugar growers or refiners in their districts."*

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

**Only Congress can fix a program that hurts U.S. consumers, taxpayers, food manufacturers and their workers with simple reforms to U.S. sugar policy.**

**Congress, Reform the U.S. Sugar Program This Year.**

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy at [www.sugarreform.org](http://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 Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.