



February 4, 2014

“More Candy for the Sugar Industry in Recently Approved Farm Bill”

“... inequity, audacity and hypocrisy associated with the politics of sugar cry out for comment,” says Sacramento Bee Columnist

Excerpt:

- *“The U.S. sugar program is a collection of import restrictions, price floors and taxpayer-backed loans designed to prop up some 4,500 domestic sugar growers while costing everyone else billions in higher prices, lost jobs and preposterous bailouts. ...*
- *“Eighty-five percent of the sugar that food manufacturers use for their products is grown here even though, from 2000 to 2012, the average price of domestic sugar was more than double the worldwide average.*
- *“Couldn’t you use more foreign sugar and cut production costs? Nope. Federal rules have restricted sugar imports to 15 percent since 1981. ...*
- *“There’s more. ... A 2013 bumper crop forced U.S. sugar prices to drop 18 percent. ‘Good!’ you say. Except Washington spent more than \$300 million in tax dollars to buy back 300,000 tons of sugar from domestic producers and take it off the market.*
- *“Why the bailout? Prices fell to where sugar producers couldn’t pay back federal loans they received in 2012. ...*
- *“So even with limited international competition, Big Sugar still wins; we lose. Government buys back sugar at a loss, hoping to raise sugar prices for citizens. Politicized capitalism at its finest.”*

Read the full column [here](#).

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.

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.