

Sweet Facts



November 5, 2014

WSJ Op-ed: “U.S. Sugar Policy: Sweet for a Few, Sour for Most”

On the heels of the U.S. Commerce Department’s announcement of initialed draft suspension agreements in the Mexican sugar cases, in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed, Burleigh Leonard, former Special Assistant to President Reagan for food and agriculture, [highlights](#) how “new restrictions on Mexican sugar imports undermine the government’s negotiating position in free trade talks.”

Excerpt:

- *“The United States and Mexico signed agreements last week that would restrict the amount of sugar Mexico can export to the U.S. The deal has been praised for avoiding a trade war, but it is symptomatic of a policy that imposes a heavy toll on the economy. ...*
- *“How can the U.S. square its stance on market access for U.S. agricultural commodities with its actions to resurrect limits on sugar imports from Mexico, one of the parties to the TPP talks? It can’t, and thus its negotiating leverage is compromised. ...*
- *“Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, acknowledged that the U.S. is taking an unreasonable position by declining to grant Australia new market access for sugar while insisting that Japan not exclude any product from its market-access commitments.*
- *“Mr. Stallman said his organization could support a TPP agreement that granted increased access for Australian sugar as long as the deal represents an overall benefit for American farmers—a signal that the interests of the many should not be sacrificed to benefit the few.”*

Congress, Reform the U.S. Sugar Program.

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.