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Don't Miss Opportunity for Market-based Reform of Sugar Program, Say Policy and Opinion Leaders from Ohio to Oklahoma

In the wake of the farm bill defeat last week, lawmakers and opinion leaders are urging Congress not to miss an opportunity to advance free market reform of the U.S. sugar program.

In Ohio ...

- *"... 'We still have the opportunity to pass free-market reforms to federal farm programs ...' [Rep. Jim] Jordan said. ... The House also rejected an amendment that would have cut back subsidies to sugar producers. That amendment — supported by Ohio companies such as Spangler Candy, based in Bryan, Ohio — was defeated 206-221. Beatty, Jordan, Stivers, Tiberi and Turner supported the amendment. Tiberi called the subsidy program — a combination of import restrictions, production quotas and a loan program aimed at protecting sugar producers — 'horrible protectionist policy.' ... 'These companies are asking for the free market,' [Rep. Steve] Stivers said. 'Why shouldn't we give it to them?'" — [The Columbus Dispatch, June 21, 2013](#)*

In Oklahoma ...

- *"The House defeat of a federal farm bill was surprising but not shocking. **There was much to dislike in the bill for members of both political parties.** ... Consider the bill's provisions for sugar growers, which maintained domestic production controls and limits on the import of less-expensive sugar from foreign markets. ...*
- *"... Defeat of the bill doesn't end this debate or eliminate bad farm policy. Existing law is terribly flawed ... But with Republicans controlling only the House, dramatic market-based reform of federal farm policy is virtually impossible at this time. Instead, **Republicans should advance whatever reforms they can in this environment.**" — [The Oklahoman \(Editorial\), June 23, 2013](#)*

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.