



April 9, 2013

Washington Post: Congress Should Pass Bipartisan Sugar Reform Act

The Washington Post

Editorial: Ending Government's Sugar Buy-Back Program Would Be A Sweet Victory

March 28, 2013

Excerpt:

- “Of all the many ways in which federal policy distorts agricultural markets, none is more convoluted than the protectionist scheme for sugar. The government sets aside a maximum of 85 percent of the market for U.S. producers; the rest gets divvied up among exporting countries eligible to ship their respective ‘quotas’ to the United States ...
- “... The combined effect of these measures has been to inflate the U.S. price of sugar ... making all sorts of products more expensive for consumers and diminishing employment in U.S. businesses that use sugar as an input. ...
- “... [T]he USDA faces the prospect of purchasing 400,000 tons and shipping it to ethanol makers at an estimated loss of \$80 million. Federal taxpayers, of course, would cover that. ...
- “... Congress should liberate the sugar business. At a minimum, it should pass the bipartisan *Sugar Reform Act of 2013*, which would eliminate the sugar-for-ethanol program and make trade restrictions and price supports more flexible. ... It’s time to let the market determine where candy, cake and soft drink makers — and those who consume such products — get their sugar, and how much they pay for it.”

Click [here](#) to read the full editorial, which has also appeared in *Arizona Daily Star* (AZ), *Boulder Daily Camera* (CO), *The News-Herald* (OH), *St. Paul Pioneer Press* (MN), *Santa Fe New Mexican* (NM), *South Coast Today* (MA) and *Wichita Falls Times Record News* (TX).

Congress can fix a program that hurts U.S. consumers, taxpayers, food manufacturers and their workers with simple reforms to the Farm Bill.

**We Urge Members of Congress to Cosponsor the Bipartisan
*Sugar Reform Act (H.R. 693/S. 345) Now!***

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program — a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.