



April 17, 2013

Virginia Manufacturers Urge Congressional Delegation to Support Sugar Reform

In a [letter](#) sent yesterday to members of the Virginia Congressional delegation, **Virginia Manufacturers Association President & CEO Brett Vassey** urged policymakers to reform the U.S. sugar program and cosponsor the bipartisan *Sugar Reform Act* ([H.R. 693/S. 345](#)):

- *“... [T]he federal government’s sugar program is counterproductive and has long outlived its usefulness. The small U.S. sugar-producing and processing industry remains the sole beneficiary of the program at the expense of the entire U.S. food and beverage industry and all consumers. ...*
- *“... This special status allows the Federal government to effectively pick winners and losers in the economy by protecting a small few from market forces at the expense of U.S. consumers.*
- *“Now, an outdated federal loan program ... could force USDA – and ultimately, taxpayers – to purchase excess U.S. sugar and sell it to fuel ethanol producers at a loss all in an effort to prop up the price of domestic sugar. ...*
- *“... The sugar program is a failed policy that threatens U.S. business, growth and job creation. On behalf of the Commonwealth’s 587 manufacturers and 35,000 employees in the food and beverage industries, we urge you to cosponsor the bipartisan *Sugar Reform Act* (H.R. 693/S. 345) and demand reforms to current U.S. sugar policy during the farm bill debate.”*

Read the full letter [here](#).

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.