



## Make the Sugar Program Work for America

June 15, 2017

### Houston Chronicle on the Impact of High Sugar Prices on a Texas Family Business

***“Atkinson pays about double what its foreign competitors do.”***

An [article](#) in the *Houston Chronicle* this week tells the story of Atkinson Candy Co., an 85-year-old, family-owned Texas candy manufacturer, and how high U.S. sugar prices as a result of the U.S. sugar program impact the company. Below is an excerpt.

#### HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

June 12, 2017

*“Because of U.S. price supports and trade barriers, Atkinson pays about double what its foreign competitors do for [sugar], creating constant pressure on the family-owned business to either sell out, shut down or shift production overseas.*

*“... The U.S. confectionery industry, excluding chocolate makers, has shed about 25 percent of its jobs over the past 20 years, as high sugar prices made it tough to compete and forced many companies to relocate overseas.*

*“... The situation recently became even more difficult for Atkinson and other U.S. candy makers after the Commerce Department struck a deal that would further limit the amount of sugar imported from Mexico ... All this has Atkinson ... worried whether he'll be able to pass the company onto a fourth generation. He faces all the usual challenges for a small American manufacturer: relatively high labor costs, a strong dollar that makes exporting difficult and pressure from enormous global brands. Sugar prices just make it all the more difficult.”*

**Congress, It's Time for U.S. Sugar Policy to Work for America.**

Learn more at [www.sugarreform.org](http://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 Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program - a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.