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## South Bend, IN Company Calls on Congress to Reform the Costly U.S. Sugar Program in the 2012 Farm Bill

As Congress moves forward with the 2012 Farm Bill with virtually no debate on the costs of U.S. sugar policy to American consumers, businesses and workers, a local South Bend, IN company, with over 90 years in business and approximately 50 local employees, is calling on policymakers to reform the outdated sugar program. In a [video message to Congress](#), Gregg Claeys, President of Claeys Candy, Inc., said:

*“One of our major competitors happens to make all their candies in Mexico, and [they] get to buy sugar for half the price that I have to pay for it, and then they ship it right back into the United States duty free. **It’s just time** we have to eliminate and **reform the sugar subsidies** in the United States. It hurts our business; it makes it more difficult to compete with confectioners coming into the United States that are duty free; and **our own government is causing us not to be competitive.**”*

### Facts About the Costly U.S. Sugar Program

- An estimated **125,000 jobs were lost** in U.S. sugar-using industries between 1997 and 2010. The U.S. Department of Commerce also estimates that for every sugar-growing job saved through high U.S. sugar prices, approximately three American manufacturing jobs are lost.
- Only 4,714 sugar farms in the United States benefit from the federal sugar program, and 30% of the sugar program’s benefits go to just 6% of these sugar crop growers. In contrast, there are **more than 600,000 U.S. jobs in food industries that use sugar**.



Click [here](#) or on the image above to watch the full video.

## Congress – Reform Outdated Sugar Policies in the 2012 Farm Bill!

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy in the 2012 Farm Bill 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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.*