



May 22, 2012

Members of Congress Send Bipartisan Letter to House Leaders, Urging ‘Robust’ Debate on the U.S. Sugar Program

Cite Constituents’ Calls to Reform Federal Sugar Subsidies, Costs to U.S. Consumers, Businesses & Workers

In a [May 15 letter](#), 22 Members of Congress – both Democrats and Republicans – urged House leaders to allow an open and ‘robust’ debate on the U.S. sugar program during consideration of the 2012 Farm Bill. To follow is an excerpt:

- ***“We have heard from many of our constituents about the need to reform federal sugar subsidies. Current U.S. sugar policy harms consumers, small businesses and workers. A recent study by Iowa State University researchers pegs the cost of the sugar program at about \$3.5 billion in added consumer spending, and 20,000 foregone jobs, every year.*”**
- ***“No other agricultural commodity program has ‘marketing allotments’ that act as production controls. Instead, other commodities rely on market price signals to keep supply and demand in balance. ... [N]o other farm program is deliberately designed to transfer income from American consumers and workers to a small, but ‘special’ interest of sugar processors and growers.*”**
- ***“The sugar program is the last of the command-and-control programs that has yet to be reformed by Congress, and in fact, U.S. sugar policy grows worse with every passing farm bill. ... We urge you to ensure that Congress uses the Farm Bill as an opportunity to protect consumers and create jobs – something our current law prevents.”*”**

Read the full letter [here](#).

Congress – Reform Outdated Sugar Policies in the 2012 Farm Bill!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
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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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.