



July 6, 2012

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman,

The National Consumers League strongly supports the farm bill amendment to bring about real reform to federal sugar policy. The current sugar program is nothing more than a hidden tax on American consumers. The special interest sugar program imposes additional unnecessary food costs on every American family and is also responsible for the loss of U.S. food manufacturing jobs.

We believe that your amendment will reduce much of the artificial costs of a sugar program that threatens the jobs of middle-class workers and the families they support. In no other program does the federal government take so much from so many to give to a few.

Each month, millions of Americans go to their neighborhood grocery stores to do their food shopping, and unbeknownst to them, the sugar in the bakery products, cereals, ice cream, and the many other food products they buy is subject to a cost that is generally 30 to 40 percent higher than the world cost, courtesy of the U.S. Congress and the sugar program. Very few, if any, will ever know that a federal government policy has pushed up the price of many food products they purchase every month.

But at annual cost of about \$10 per consumer adds up to a real subsidy when it is multiplied by over 300 million American consumers. As our citizens walk up to the cash register at their grocery store to pay their food bill, they will not realize that the sugar program is costing them as American consumers more than \$3 billion a year in added food costs.

It could also be argued that this sugar tax is also a regressive tax, assuming that all Americans consume roughly equal amounts of sugar, with lower-income families spending a proportionately higher amount of their income on sugar. For a family of four on a tight budget, an extra \$40 each year in government-inflated food costs is real money for those that can least afford it.

To help put an end to some of the huge hidden costs that Congress has imposed upon consumers under the guise of the current sugar program, the National Consumers League heartily endorses the sugar reform amendment and we ask that you join other Congressmen in supporting this much-needed reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The signature reads "Sally Greenberg". The first name "Sally" is written with a large, looping 'S' and a small 'y'. The last name "Greenberg" is written with a large, looping 'G' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sally Greenberg