



November 19, 2013

CATO to Conservatives: Sugar Program Is Central Planning

Excerpt:

- *“House and Senate negotiators are working out details of a big farm bill that may pass this year. **No industry in America is as coddled as farming, and no industry is as centrally planned from Washington. The federal sugar program is perhaps the most Soviet of all.** Here’s a sketch of the sugar program, which the supposedly conservative, tea party-dominated lower chamber may soon ratify:*
- *“**Purpose.** The federal sugar program is designed to enrich sugar producers ... and rip off sugar consumers by keeping domestic prices artificially high. ...*
- *“**Guaranteed Prices.** The Department of Agriculture runs a complex loan program to support sugar prices. ...*
- *“**Trade Restrictions.** Complex import barriers called ‘tariff rate quotas’ help to maintain high domestic sugar prices. ...*
- *“**Ethanol Giveaway.** If prices fall below certain levels, the USDA is required to fire up a sugar-for-ethanol program to channel sugar away from the food industry.”*

Read the full CATO Institute blog post [here](#).

Only Congress can fix a program that hurts U.S. consumers, taxpayers, food manufacturers and their workers with simple reforms to U.S. sugar policy.

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.