



July 18, 2013

NY Business Leader: Sugar Program Is ‘More Than Unfair’

[Letter to the Editor in the Albany Times Union — July 13, 2013](#)

By Steve Effron, President, EFCO Products Inc.

- *“I want to thank Reps. Peter King, R-Long Island; Steve Israel, D-Long Island; Gregory Meeks, D-Queens; Hakeem Jeffries, D-Brooklyn; Nita Lowey, D-Westchester/Rockland; Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam; Richard Hanna, R-Utica; Brian Higgins, D-Buffalo; and Chris Collins, R-Buffalo, for supporting an amendment to reform the U.S. sugar program.*
- *“The current program forces businesses like mine and every American consumer and taxpayer to pay up to \$3.5 billion in hidden taxes annually — all to provide a special interest subsidy to profitable sugar producers. While business owners like me are working hard to stay afloat without special subsidies, three big sugar companies are receiving the majority of \$1.1 billion in federal sugar loans, and that’s just this year.*
- *“This is more than unfair. It is stifling economic growth and we are losing New York businesses to Canada, which advertises its less restrictive sugar policy. ...*
- *“I know I can count on our delegation who voted for reform to do so again, and I urge our other elected officials to have the courage to support efforts to fix a program that only benefits a few.”*

Read the full letter [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.

The Time for Sugar Program Reform is Now!

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.