



August 13, 2015

Opinion Leaders Agree: It's Time to Reform the U.S. Sugar Program

- **Editorial Board, *The Wall Street Journal*:** *“The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the loan program will cost some \$115 million over the next 10 years. But the greater cost is to the economy. The food and drink industry ... is less competitive when it has to pay twice the world price for sugar. ... The relatively few sugar cane and beet producers have grown fat and happy off this racket, but they are losing support.”* (July 29, 2015)
- **Editors, *Bloomberg View*:** *“The U.S. has protected its sugar producers almost since it has existed. But those protections have long since lost any justification. ... This fiercely defended thicket of tariffs, price supports and quotas undermines U.S. development aid, corrupts the country's politics and distorts global trade.”* (July 22, 2015)
- **Charles Lane, Columnist, *The Washington Post*:** *“[W]e have country-by-country quotas on imports, buttressed by domestic price supports. The net effect is to soak U.S. consumers every time they buy sugar-containing products The industry used to boast that its government protection does not cost taxpayers anything directly, but that claim has been exploded due to recent market developments that forced the federal government to, in effect, buy up tons and tons of sugar and sell it to ethanol refiners at a loss – so as to prop up prices. Taxpayers took a hit of some \$258 million in fiscal 2014.”* (July 1, 2015)
- **James Bovard, Columnist, *USA TODAY*:** *“Sugar is perhaps America’s least efficient welfare program, costing consumers vastly more than it benefits farmers. ... The General Accounting Office estimated in 1995 that 1% of sugar growers captured almost half of all the benefits from the program.”* (August 11, 2015)

Only Congress can fix the U.S. sugar program.

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program - a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.