



September 17, 2013

“Sugar-to-Ethanol Subsidies Are No Sweet Deal for Taxpayers”

[Op-Ed: Sugar-to-Ethanol Subsidies Are a Sweet Deal for Producers, Not Consumers](#)

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By Christine Harbin Hanson, Policy Analyst, Americans for Prosperity

Excerpt:

- *“Under the federal Feedstock Flexibility Program, a little-known farm program dating back to 1934, the [U.S. Agriculture] Department has the power to divert sugar supplies away from grocery stores and into gas tanks. This sugar-to-ethanol program is a handout to sugar producers at the expense of American consumers and taxpayers, and it highlights the fact that U.S. farm programs need serious reform.*
- *“Federal sugar policies are a grab bag of supply restrictions, and their goal is to keep sugar prices high. ...*
- *“Why is the federal government propping up sugar prices for corporate sugar producers, forcing American households to pay sugar prices nearly twice as high than the rest of the world? ...*
- *“This is an alarmingly inappropriate level of government intervention in the marketplace. Federal agencies should not be brokering deals between private companies in the marketplace, nor should they be taking million dollar losses for these deals.*
- *“Nor should federal agencies be writing the terms of the loans in that are so tilted away from taxpayers — if sugar producers were to default, they would repay the federal government with sugar, not with cash. That’s no sweet deal for taxpayers.”*

Click [here](#) to read the full op-ed.

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.

Congress, Reform the U.S. Sugar Program This Year.

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.