COALITION FOR SUGAR REFORM

Sweet Facts

November 13, 2013

Editorial: "End the Sweet Deal for Big Sugar"

Excerpt:

- *"**If there is a poster child for what is wrong with U.S. farm policy, it's sugar**. … As Congress reopens negotiations on the farm bill and the federal budget, here's one easy way to reduce government, save money and help Americans: **Get government out of the business of propping up sugar growers**. …*
- *"The U.S. Commerce Department estimated in 2006 the **sugar program had cost three jobs in the domestic food manufacturing industry** for every single sugar-producing job it saved. …*
- *"This year a bumper crop of sugar production means **taxpayers will spend at least $300 million buying excess sugar to sell at a loss** for use as ethanol, or backstopping industry loans. Yet consumers will continue to shell out higher prices than necessary for foods made in America using sugar …*
- *"The foolishness of the sugar subsidies isn't limited to food manufacturing. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce backs reforms in part because **American tariffs have damaged other trade negotiations with Australia and other countries.***
- *"All of that is on top of the environmental havoc wrought by sugar on one of Florida's primary sources of water, the Everglades. Just last year, Gov. Rick Scott announced **taxpayers would spend another $880 million to clean up water south of sugar farms.** …*
- ***"Until lawmakers stand up to Big Sugar, taxpayers will keep propping up the industry, paying more for food and then paying to clean up the environmental mess left behind."***

Read the full *Tampa Bay Times* editorial 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 Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.