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## USA Today Column: “Sugar Fight Ain’t So Sweet”

“We should dump the anti-sugar dumping crusade against Mexico. It hurts consumers and kills jobs,” says Ike Brannon, a former chief economist of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and a current fellow at the George W. Bush Institute, in a *USA Today* [column](#) out today.

Excerpt:

- *“American sugar producers have one sweet deal. Under what’s euphemistically called the ‘sugar program,’ they keep out foreign competitors through high tariffs, prop up domestic prices with crop allotments and backstop their risk through government-guaranteed loans. ... **Last year, our government spent \$259 million directly to keep sugar prices high, and U.S. consumers paid an even higher tax.** ...*
- *“But that’s not enough for the sugar industry. In the NAFTA agreement with Mexico and Canada, enacted 20 years ago, U.S. sugar lobbyists won a **14-year exemption from free trade** among the three countries. Starting in 2008, the U.S. allowed unlimited duty-free sugar to be imported from Mexico, and Mexico allowed duty-free corn syrup to flow from the United States. ...*
- *“Still, the Mexican government, apparently wary of Big Sugar’s power, agreed to divert a large portion of their exports to markets other than the U.S. Partly as a result, **U.S. producers are actually doing better since NAFTA was fully implemented.** ... **Overall, both the sugar price and total revenues for U.S. sugar prices were higher after 2008 than they were in the pre-free-trade period.***
- *“Again, however, that’s not enough. In March, the sugar producers filed an anti-dumping action against their Mexican competitors. And last week, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), an independent agency headed by six political appointees, made a misguided preliminary ruling against Mexico. ... The ITC made the wrong call.”*

Read the full column [here](#).

## Congress, Reform the U.S. Sugar Program.

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy at [www.sugarreform.org](http://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 Our objective is to reform the federal government’s intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.*