



June 6, 2013

## Troy University's Scott Beaulier Takes on Costly U.S. Sugar Subsidies

In a June 5 *Troy Messenger* [column](#), Scott Beaulier, Director of the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University, takes on America's costly U.S. sugar program.

Excerpt:

- *"One of my regular readers recently asked me for my thoughts on sugar subsidies and protections on U.S. sugar production. My short answer is that I'm not a fan. My long answer can be best summarized by looking at what someone else – one of my former students, Lori Sanders, who's now working at the R Street think tank in Washington, DC – has to say about the subsidies. Here are some of her thoughts, which are taken from [recent column](#) of hers that appeared in The Blaze:*
- *"[T]he [sugar] program simply boils down to a massive subsidy scheme aimed at benefitting a small number of farmers. ... [T]he program forces the consumer to pay significantly more for sugar than the world price ... And despite the government's best efforts to make the program costless by selling sugar for ethanol, the program does lose money at times, including a \$295 million loss in 2000.*
- *"... But beyond these immediate costs, the hidden effects are much more sinister. The program arguably supports some American jobs, but at the cost of others, in the form of decreased manufacturing employment. Numerous industries use sugar as an input, and the artificially high prices hurt their ability to hire workers. ... [N]early 127,000 jobs in sugar-using industries were lost between 1997 and 2011.*
- *"... It's infuriating that at a time when taxpayers are being squeezed, the sequester is causing furloughs and unemployment remains high, Congress seems incapable of acting to eliminate wasteful, harmful programs. The taxpayer deserves the sweet deal, not Big Sugar."*

Read the full [column here](#).

**Congress can fix a program that hurts U.S. consumers, taxpayers, food manufacturers and their workers with simple reforms to the Farm Bill.**

**We Urge Members of Congress to Cosponsor the Bipartisan Sugar Reform Act (H.R. 693/S. 345) Now and Support Efforts to Reform the Sugar Program in the 2013 Farm Bill!**

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.