

# Sweet Facts



June 19, 2013

## Taxpayers Set to Receive \$38 Million Bill Thanks to Outdated Federal Sugar Program

### ***Congress Can Reduce Costs by Reforming the Sugar Program in the Farm Bill***

As the House begins debating the farm bill, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and ultimately American taxpayers, are set to purchase 85,000 metric tons of excess domestic sugar to manage the current sugar surplus and keep U.S. sugar prices high – a costly consequence of the outdated federal sugar program. While USDA is doing all that is possible to minimize taxpayer costs, only Congress can reform the sugar program to roll back its most onerous provisions enacted as part of the 2008 farm bill.

***USDA estimates its sugar surplus purchasing plan announced on Monday will cost taxpayers \$38 million, and is an effort aimed at mitigating the negative impact of anticipated sugar loan forfeitures later this summer, which are projected to range from \$110 million to \$320 million if these actions fail, according to USDA.***

### Enough is Enough!

- American taxpayers, consumers and businesses cannot afford these costs on top of the up to \$3.5 billion they pay annually in the form of a hidden tax, all to enrich one very profitable, small segment of our economy – sugar producers and processors.
- Nearly 127,000 jobs were lost in U.S. sugar-using industries between 1997 and 2011 and for every one job saved through high sugar prices, three manufacturing jobs are lost. There are an estimated 600,000 American manufacturing jobs in sugar-using industries in all 50 states, which are at risk due to the current sugar program.

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

## **We Urge Members of Congress to Support the Bipartisan Sugar Reform Floor Amendment to 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 Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.