

# **SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION**

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## **Sweetener Users Welcome Remarks from USDA Under Secretary Scuse on U.S. Sugar Policy**

Washington, DC (February 9, 2015) – The [Sweetener Users Association](#) (SUA) released the following statement today following keynote remarks from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Michael Scuse during the opening session of the 2015 International Sweetener Colloquium in Orlando, Florida.

“The Sweetener Users Association welcomes Under Secretary Scuse’s remarks today on U.S. sugar policy and the ongoing anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations of Mexican sugar imports.

“As the Under Secretary noted in his remarks, USDA is required by law to provide adequate supplies of sugar at reasonable prices, and we commend the Under Secretary for his efforts to manage the flawed U.S. sugar program over the years. Balancing the interests of both sugar users and sugar producers while providing transparency and addressing the continued market uncertainty the program brings is no easy feat, and Under Secretary Scuse and his team at USDA have faced that challenge head on.

“Unfortunately, as the Under Secretary noted, the recent anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations of Mexican sugar imports have led to uncertainty in the market, making it even more difficult for USDA to ensure adequate supplies of sugar to meet our domestic needs. With total imports of sugar to date down significantly this year, the investigations have had a lasting, negative impact on the already unstable U.S. sugar market.

“What’s worse, the subsequent suspension agreements in the cases will only contribute to the many problems resulting from current U.S. sugar policy through increased restrictions on the flow of imports. We are encouraged by the Under Secretary’s recognition that USDA may need to consider tariff-rate quota adjustments if uncertainty in the market continues.

“However, adjustments here and there are not enough. Comprehensive reform of the U.S. sugar program is needed.

“American taxpayers, consumers and businesses have paid the price for the U.S. sugar program for far too long. U.S. sugar program reform is long past due, and we urge Congress to take steps this year to reform some of the most egregious and costly provisions.”

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