

SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

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SUA Statement on Commerce Department's Postponement of Preliminary Antidumping Duty Determination

Washington, DC (August 21, 2014) – The [Sweetener Users Association](http://www.sweetenerusers.org) (SUA) released the following statement today regarding the recent announcement from the U.S. Department of Commerce of the postponement of its preliminary determination of injury in the antidumping duty investigation of Mexican sugar imports.

“The Commerce Department’s decision to postpone its preliminary determination of injury in the antidumping (AD) duty investigation is not surprising nor is it unusual. It is routine for Commerce to grant extensions on its determination of preliminary duties, just as it did on June 3 in extending its determination of countervailing duties (CVD) until August 25, 2014.

“As Commerce continues its AD and CVD investigations of Mexican sugar imports through the regular course of action, it should *not* be assumed that the case has merit.

“In actuality, the petition filed earlier this year by U.S. sugar producers is nothing more than a diversionary tactic, shifting the blame to Mexico for the distortions in the marketplace that were caused by the U.S. sugar program, specifically changes made to the program in the 2008 farm bill. U.S. sugar prices soared above the world price from 2009 to 2012 following the implementation of the 2008 farm bill changes to the sugar program. As a result, *both* Mexico and the United States increased production, leading to a surplus and a return to the historical sugar price level that sugar producers – U.S. *and* Mexican – are experiencing today in the United States.

“The focus should not be on using Mexico as a scapegoat for the fluctuations in the U.S. sugar market. Instead, the focus should be on reforming the U.S. sugar program, which continues to cost American consumers and businesses billions a year, costing taxpayers nearly \$300 million in FY 2013 alone.

“With each step of Commerce’s investigation, we will continue to present evidence of the U.S. sugar program’s failings and the lack of merit in this case.”

Learn more at [sweetenerusers.org](http://www.sweetenerusers.org).

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