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Media Contact:

Jennifer Cummings

(202) 822-9491

jcumings@fratelli.com

House Ag Committee Markup Is Just ‘More of the Same’

SUA Calls for Floor Debate on Sugar Program Modernization

Washington, DC (April 18, 2018) – Following today’s markup of the 2018 Farm Bill in the House Agriculture Committee, the [Sweetener Users Association](#) (SUA) called on congressional leaders to ensure sugar program modernization is debated on the House floor.

“By uncritically bowing to the demands of the sugar lobby to simply extend current failed sugar policies without any effort at reform, today’s markup was unfortunately just a ‘check-the-box’ exercise to push the bill through committee swiftly. Unfortunately, this is just more of the same, and what America’s food and beverage manufacturers and the more than 600,000 Americans they employ need is modernization of the sugar program,” said Rick Pasco, President of SUA and Co-Chair of the [Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy](#). “Right now, sugar policy benefits a small group of sugar processing corporations and cooperatives at the expense of everyone else in the country.”

The sugar program impacts every American consumer and the ability of American food and beverage manufacturers who use sugar in the products they make to compete in the global marketplace. That is because while their competitors in Canada, for example, can access sugar at the world price, American manufacturers are forced to pay twice as much, hampering their ability to generate economic growth in their local communities and create and sustain jobs.

America’s unfair sugar policy led to the loss of 123,000 jobs between 1997 and 2015. The Department of Commerce also estimates that for every sugar-processing job subsidized by higher U.S. sugar prices, three manufacturing jobs are lost.

“This Congress has an opportunity to ensure fairness in America’s sugar policy both for those who produce sugar and those who consume it, including U.S. manufacturers and the American people. It’s just common sense,” said Pasco.

SUA supports the bipartisan, bicameral *Sugar Policy Modernization Act* ([H.R.4265 / S.2086](#)), which would make modest reforms to the sugar program, while maintaining a safety net for farmers.

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The Sweetener Users Association (SUA) represents American food and beverage manufacturers who use sugar to make the products U.S. consumers know and love – from sweet treats to everyday staples like bread, pasta sauce, yogurt and peanut butter. SUA members employ hundreds of thousands of Americans across the United States – from bakers and confectioners to food scientists and factory workers.

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