



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Bill O’Conner

(202) 904-0239

boconner@watkinsonmiller.com

Sweetener Users Praise Sugar Reform Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 27, 2021) – Legislation introduced in Congress yesterday would bring long-overdue reform to federal sugar subsidies, the Sweetener Users Association (SUA) said.

“The U.S. sugar program has needed an update for decades,” said SUA President Rick Pasco. “We urge Congress to approve this important legislation.”

Similar sugar reform bills (H.R. 4680 and S. 2466) were introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Reps. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Danny Davis (D-IL) and 34 other House members of both parties, and by Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Pat Toomey (R-PA) and 14 other members of the Senate.

The legislation would repeal a subsidy under which the federal government is required in certain circumstances to buy surplus sugar and re-sell it to ethanol plants at a loss to taxpayers. In addition, the bill reduces price supports and abolishes production controls, under which the federal government decides how much sugar individual sugar companies are allowed to sell. It also provides more flexibility to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in regulating sugar imports.

Partly because of the way the sugar program operates, sugar prices in the United States are at nine-year highs, threatening to further accelerate food price inflation. The world price of raw sugar, which U.S. food companies’ offshore competitors pay, is 17 cents per pound, but the U.S. price is above 36 cents, more than double the world price. By making U.S. food and beverage companies uncompetitive, the sugar subsidy encourages companies to move production and jobs to other countries.

“The job-killing sugar program enriches a select few while costing all Americans at the grocery store,” Pasco said. “It’s time for this special-interest subsidy to be reformed.”

###

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.

Connect with us at SweetenerUsers.org.

1100 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE • SUITE 910 • WASHINGTON, DC 20003 • (202) 842-2345 • (202) 408-7763 FAX