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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sweetener Users Association Statement on Today's USTR Proposal to Increase Section 301 Tariffs on Out-of-Quota Sugar Imports

Washington, D.C. (November 25, 2026) — The Sweetener Users Association (SUA) today issued the following statement regarding the Office of the United States Trade Representative's (USTR) proposal to increase the out-of-quota tariff on sugar imports under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, citing concerns over Brazilian practices affecting trade.

"SUA supports a strong domestic sugar industry, but the United States does not produce enough sugar to meet domestic demand. Imports are therefore an essential part of the U.S. sugar supply.

"When supplies through normal channels fall short, manufacturers may have no choice but to import sugar at the already substantial out-of-quota duty. Adding another tariff on top of those existing duties would further increase the cost of securing the sugar needed to meet U.S. consumer demand, without addressing the underlying supply challenge — raising costs for U.S. food manufacturers and consumers already facing high sugar prices.

"SUA looks forward to submitting comments on today's proposal and to continuing to work with USTR and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure U.S. food manufacturers have reliable access to sugar when domestic production falls short of demand.

"To further support that goal, SUA encourages both agencies to implement the Government Accountability Office's 2023 recommendations for improving how raw sugar import quotas are allocated and reallocated and to carry out the sugar reallocation requirements enacted by Congress through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act."

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The Sweetener Users Association (SUA) represents American food companies that 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. Sugar-using companies employ hundreds of thousands of Americans across the United States, including bakers, confectioners, factory workers and more.

Connect with us at SweetenerUsers.org or follow us on Twitter @SweetenerUsers.

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