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**U.S. SUGAR POLICY REFORM OFFERS BEST CHANCE FOR CONSUMER,  
TAXPAYER SAVINGS IN DELAYED FARM BILL**

***Sweetener Users Urge Lawmakers to Look at Sugar Reform Measures for Cost Savings***

Washington, D.C. – April 9, 2008 – The Sugar Policy Alliance (SPA) today urged lawmakers to look no further than existing U.S. sugar policy as a source of funding needed for the long-delayed 2008 farm bill. Lawmakers have been trying to identify savings in order to fund high priorities like increased nutrition assistance for the poor.

“As farm bill negotiators struggle to come up with budget savings, expenditures on the sugar program offer prime targets,” said Larry Graham, president of the National Confectioners Association and a leader of the SPA. The House and Senate provisions within the new farm bill would increase sugar price support loan rates, put additional restrictions on sugar imports, and guarantee U.S. sugar growers 85% of the domestic market regardless of market needs and taxpayer costs, as well as mandating a costly scheme to force taxpayers to buy surplus sugar and then sell it to ethanol plants at a loss.

Eliminating the 85% guarantee or canceling the loan rate increase would both provide cost savings. In March, the Bush Administration said it was willing to spend up to \$10 billion above the current CBO baseline if the farm bill contained significant program reforms, but so far it has been difficult to identify where the money will come from.

Both of these provisions, along with the sugar-for-ethanol program, were criticized by the Administration in a letter that recommended program reforms to be included in the farm bill.

The Sugar Policy Alliance includes industrial sugar users, business groups, trade associations, consumer organizations and taxpayer advocates.

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