

# **SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION**

ONE MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NW • SUITE 800 • WASHINGTON, DC 20001 • (202) 842-2345 • (202) 408-7763 FAX

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Christy Moran  
(202) 355-6309**

## **Sweetener Users Urge Congress to Approve U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement**

Washington, D.C. – September 10, 2007 – The Sweetener Users Association (SUA) today urged Congress to approve the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement now awaiting action in the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

“This agreement is far from perfect. It only provides minimal additional access to the U.S. sugar market and fails to phase-out prohibitive over-quota tariffs on sugar imports. But it does preserve the guiding principal of U.S. trade policy that all trade negotiations be comprehensive in scope,” said SUA Counsel Richard Pasco. “We hope the committee work will be wrapped up this month so the agreement can move to the House and Senate floor for final action,” Pasco added

The agreement now up for approval provides an additional tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for 11,000 metric tons of sugar imports from Peru in the first year of the agreement including 2,000 metric tons of total imports for specialty sugars and 9,000 tons of raw sugar that is not specialty sugar. The TRQ would grow by two percent a year, which translates into an annual increase in the raw sugar TRQ of only 180 metric tons.

The additional 11,000 metric tons of sugar imports that would be allowed by the agreement represents less than one tenth of one percent of the approximately 10 million tons of sugar consumed annually in the United States.

SUA represents confectioners, bakers, cereal manufacturers, beverage makers and dairy food companies that use sugar, as well as trade associations for these industries. SUA members support a healthy domestic sugar-producing and sugar-processing industry that can deliver an ample supply to refiners, industrial users, and consumers, but SUA believes sugar policy should support producer incomes without distorting the market.

###