

July 2, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman  
United States Trade Representative  
Winder Building  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

As the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement negotiations move toward the final stages of completion, we write to encourage you to reach a comprehensive agreement that significantly expands U.S. imports of sugar, which are needed in our domestic market.

Consumers and food companies currently face severe restrictions on both domestic sugar production and imports that insulate U.S. sugar producers almost entirely from normal market pressures. This system guarantees sugar companies many years of excessively high prices, at times nearly twice the world price, and has cost American consumers and businesses an estimated \$15 billion since 2008 alone in artificially inflated prices. Tight domestic sugar supplies can be expected for the next several years, unless we allow commercially meaningful access to TPP countries that have the ability to supply the U.S. market.

Overly protective treatment of sugar producers has widespread negative effects on our economy. We've lost more than 120,000 jobs in sugar-using industries since 1997, and denial of real access to our TPP trading partners leaves us vulnerable to other countries' refusals to open markets to valuable American agricultural commodities. This self-imposed handicap also stifles our progress on other significant trade priorities and prevents much-needed opportunities for critical American industries to grow their exports.

We urge you to resist calls to maintain unnecessary trade protections for a small special interest group of sugar producers and processors. Loosening the current excessive restrictions on sugar imports would have far-reaching benefits to our economy as a whole. Allowing commercially significant access to the U.S. sugar market for our TPP negotiating partners, including Australia and Canada, will encourage reciprocal market access abroad for many other American commodities and services.

We appreciate your efforts and the work of your trade team in obtaining a balanced TPP agreement, and providing additional sugar market access is a key ingredient for achieving that objective.

Sincerely,

**Coalition for Sugar Reform**  
American Bakers Association  
Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste  
Emergency Committee for American Trade  
Independent Bakers Association  
International Dairy Foods Association  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Confectioners Association  
National Foreign Trade Council  
Retail Confectioners International  
Snack Food Association  
Sweetener Users Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce