

SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

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SUA Statement on U.S.-Mexico Suspension Agreements

Washington, DC (December 20, 2014) – The [Sweetener Users Association](#) (SUA) today released the following statement on the U.S. Department of Commerce’s announcement that it has finalized agreements with the Mexican government and Mexican sugar exporters to suspend the antidumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) investigations of sugar imports.

“With the stroke of a pen, these agreements dismantle the unrestricted free trade of sugar between the United States and Mexico since 2008 and undermine the core principles of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). While sugar is but one commodity traded between our two countries, these suspension agreements set a horrible precedent by undoing trade flows that have been established over two decades after NAFTA was first negotiated.

“We are also deeply concerned about the implications of the suspension agreements for the U.S. sugar market, American consumers and manufacturers. Between the time the U.S. sugar producers filed the AD/CVD petitions in late March and the end of September, the uncertainty surrounding the cases cost American consumers an additional [\\$837 million](#) and put in jeopardy thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs. Due in large part to market uncertainty, U.S. sugar prices today are higher than world prices, and these suspension agreements only perpetuate the uncertainty.

“One of the critical components of the Commerce Department’s evaluation of the agreements is whether they are in the national interest. Nothing about forcing American consumers and businesses to pay more for sugar by adding more trade restrictions on top of those already imposed by America’s protectionist sugar policy is in our national interest.

“Instead of further restricting market access and undermining free trade, what America needs is sugar reform. We will continue to make the case to Congress and the Administration that the American people cannot afford policies and agreements that continue to move U.S. sugar policy in the wrong direction.

“These suspension agreements significantly limit the supply and raise the price of sugar from Mexico. Given the new restraints on Mexican sugar, the pending Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations have become even more critical. Australia and Canada — TPP member countries that export sugar — will have to be provided the additional U.S. market access necessary to offset the loss of sugar previously available from Mexico.”

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy at www.sugarreform.org.

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