

SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

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Media Contact:

Jennifer Cummings

(202) 822-9491

[jcummings@fratelli.com](mailto:jcumings@fratelli.com)

Sugar Policy Experts Cite Market Uncertainty, Need for Sugar Reform

Washington, DC (February 11, 2015) – During panel discussions at this week’s 2015 International Sweetener Colloquium in Orlando, Florida, sugar policy experts and analysts from the [Sweetener Users Association](#) (SUA) reviewed the state of the current sugar market and highlighted the need for sugar policy reform.

Tom Earley, Vice President, Agralytica: “The already unstable U.S. sugar market has become even more volatile because of the ongoing antidumping and countervailing duty investigations of Mexican sugar imports. With total sugar imports down and increased restrictions on imports up based on the signed U.S.-Mexico suspension agreements, sugar users are left with uncertainty around how they will meet their business needs when sugar supplies are expected to tighten in the coming months.”

Bill O’Conner, Agriculture Policy Expert, McLeod, Watkinson & Miller: “We continue to be concerned about the suspension agreements, which will put new restraints on imports from Mexico well into the future and likely lead to unnecessarily tight supplies. The many problems caused by the U.S. sugar program are only multiplied by these agreements and at great expense to U.S. consumers and manufacturers who use sugar in the products they make. U.S. sugar policy needs to be reformed to reflect the interests of all stakeholders, not just one small, but highly profitable, segment of the U.S. economy.”

Rick Pasco, President, SUA: “The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) currently under negotiation presents an opportunity for increased market access to help address the demand for sugar here in the United States since we do not produce enough on our own to meet domestic needs. Increased access has become even more important as a result of the suspension agreements in the antidumping and countervailing duty cases against Mexican sugar imports, which further restrict sugar imports. We urge negotiators to keep that in mind as the TPP negotiations continue to advance.”

U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Michael Scuse delivered remarks during the opening session of the conference. The SUA response to his comments can be found [here](#).

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