

# SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

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## Sweetener Users Urge Policymakers to Reform U.S. Sugar Policy

Washington, DC (February 12, 2013) – In a series of conference sessions during the 2013 International Sweetener Colloquium underway this week in Bonita Springs, FL, Sweetener Users Association (SUA) leaders and analysts have underscored the need for U.S. sugar policy reform, including:

**Rick Pasco, President, SUA:** “The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement negotiations offer a real opportunity for sugar trade liberalization among the 11 countries currently at the table. While we advocate progress toward trade liberalization for all sugar-producing TPP partners, Australia and Canada specifically deserve access to the U.S. market after being denied the opportunity in previous trade agreements. After sugar was excluded from the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement, the United States negotiated three trade agreements providing additional market access to eight countries. Increasing market access to sugar through the TPP would grow U.S. exports, support job creation and help ensure that other commodities, of which the United States is a net exporter, benefit from reduced tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade.”

**Tom Earley, Vice President, Agralytica:** “Unlike other commodity programs, the current sugar program mandates government intrusion in a market that could function successfully on its own. Through a complex scheme of price supports, import restrictions and marketing allotments, the federal government is unnecessarily intervening at the expense of consumers and sugar-using manufacturers of all sizes across the food and beverage industry.”

**Randy Green, Principal, Watson Green LLC:** “The simple fact is, the U.S. sugar program isn’t working and the evidence is clear by just taking a look at the current market situation. The sugar provisions that Congress included in the 2008 Farm Bill have contributed both to shortage and record-high refined sugar prices – which are still about 30 percent above world averages – and lower raw sugar prices and surplus. This instability in the market is a result of a failed U.S. sugar policy in desperate need of reform.”

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