

SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

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Sugar-Using Industry Representatives Testify Before USITC, Highlight Importance of Trade Relationship with Mexico to Sugar Users

Washington, DC (April 18, 2014) – Today during the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) preliminary conference on the antidumping and countervailing duty investigation of sugar from Mexico, a sugar-using industry business leader and a sugar market analyst testified on behalf of the [Sweetener Users Association](#) (SUA). Both witnesses discussed the state of the current U.S. sugar market and the role of Mexican sugar. Key quotes from their remarks include:

Tim Jones, Senior Manager, Procurement & Operations, Just Born, Inc., and Member, National Confectioners Association: “Domestic growers and refiners are unable to satisfy all of the demand for sugar in the United States, making imports vital to the functioning of the market. ... Restrictions on Mexican imports will harm our company, as well as many other companies operating in the United States that depend on a consistent, reliable supply of sugar.”

Tom Earley, Vice President, Agralytica: “[O]ne cannot claim that imports from Mexico reduced U.S. sugar production or the market share of U.S. producers. ... Where we are now is well within the parameters of how the government-managed U.S. sugar market normally behaves.”

There has been free trade in sugar between the United States and Mexico since early 2008. In the years since then, Mexico has become an integral part of the North American sugar trade. That has occurred during the years of the highest prices for sugar ever seen in the United States.

U.S. sugar prices soared well above the already high world price between 2009-2012 because of changes made to the U.S. sugar program in 2008. This incentivized growers in Mexico and the United States to increase production – in turn building a surplus that led to the lower prices U.S. and Mexican growers are experiencing now. The real culprit is not Mexico; it’s the outdated sugar program.

As highlighted during today’s USITC conference, the trading relationship between the United States and Mexico is a very important one. The United States and Mexico have just marked 20 years under NAFTA, and with Mexico being the United States’s third largest trading partner, it is vital that trade complaints of this type be adjudicated in an objective and even-handed manner.

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