

SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jennifer Cummings

(202) 822-9491

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

Statement on ITC Hearing on U.S.-Mexico Suspension Agreements

Washington, DC (October 20, 2015) – The [Sweetener Users Association](#) (SUA) today released the following statement in response to the U.S. International Trade Commission’s (ITC) final determination on the agreements suspending the antidumping and countervailing duty investigations of Mexican sugar imports.

“The ITC missed a key opportunity to do the right thing for American consumers, taxpayers and businesses. The idea that domestic producers were suffering at a time when they made record profits is confounding. What is clear, however, is that the temporary decline in U.S. sugar prices in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 crop year was attributable to the United States’ failed sugar policy, excess supply in the combined U.S.-Mexican sugar sector and the normal working of commodity markets – not to imports from Mexico.

“In fact, changes made to the sugar program in the 2008 farm bill caused U.S. sugar prices to soar well above the already high world price between 2009 and 2012. High profits in turn incentivized U.S. domestic producers, as well as Mexican producers, to increase their share of the U.S. sugar market.

“While today’s decision is unfortunate, SUA and sugar-using industry representatives will redouble our efforts to work with Congress to enact meaningful sugar program reform.

“Our industries support an estimated 600,000 jobs across the United States, jobs that depend on the ability of U.S. manufacturers – from large companies to small ‘mom-and-pop’ shops – to access an adequate supply of sugar at reasonable prices. Current U.S. sugar policy and today’s ITC decision are at odds with achieving the latter, and we will continue to seek relief.”

###