

SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

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July 8, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Sweetener Users Association, I would like to express our appreciation for USDA's announcement of a 300,000-short-ton increase in the FY 2010 raw sugar tariff rate quota (TRQ), as well as USTR's allocation of this increase among supplying countries. The commercial users of sugar have been concerned about the unusually tight market for sugar this fiscal year, and have particularly noted the irony that imports of sugar outside the TRQ were taking place in significant quantities, meaning that the spread between U.S. and world prices was so great as to make it economical to pay what is normally a prohibitive tariff. Likewise, sugar users joined with growers and refiners in seeking an early announcement of the FY 2011 TRQ, and SUA continues to urge USDA to take that step in the near future.

Your action to increase the TRQ is a responsible, timely step to help restore supply adequacy, and the extremely prompt allocation by USTR demonstrates a high degree of coordination among the agencies that users sincerely appreciate. We also concur with USDA's statement that further adjustments to the TRQ might be necessary, and we will continue to supply information on market needs with you and your staff in this regard.

Once again, thank you for taking steps to make supplies more readily available in a difficult and challenging marketplace. A similar letter has been sent to Ambassador Kirk.

Sincerely,



Perry Cerminara
Chairman