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**SWEETENER USERS SAY U.S.D.A. ACTED WISELY IN GRANTING
INCREASED ACCESS TO U.S. SUGAR MARKET**

Washington, D.C. – August 27, 2008 – Today the Sweetener Users Association (SUA) praised recent action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that increased the import quota for refined sugar, and strongly disagreed with representatives of a few foreign sugar producers who claimed that USDA’s action violated the 2008 farm bill.

“At a time of record-low stock levels and unusually tight markets, with a major portion of the nation’s cane refining capacity idled, it is absurd for anyone to tell the United States that it does not have the right to purchase sufficient sugar supplies,” said Fred Hensler, SUA’s chairman.

According to press reports, representatives of offshore sugar producers have criticized USDA for acting to make refined sugar available to the U.S. market. The International Sugar Trade Coalition sent a letter to USDA Secretary Ed Schafer stating the TRQ increase violates farm bill requirements.

“USDA, not offshore sugar interests, administers the farm bill and the sugar import quota,” said Hensler. “USDA’s actions are clearly consistent with both the spirit and the letter of the law, and in fact are conservative – there is a need for additional sugar supplies in the near term.”

SUA said that USDA’s latest supply and demand forecasts for sugar point to the need for additional imports in the year ahead and urged USDA to authorize those extra supplies in its initial import quota determination for the 2008/09 fiscal year.

SUA represents confectioners, bakers, cereal manufacturers, beverage makers and dairy food companies that use sugar, as well as trade associations for these industries. SUA members support a healthy domestic sugar-producing and sugar-processing industry that can deliver an ample supply to refiners, industrial users, and consumers, but SUA believes sugar policy should support producer incomes without distorting the market.

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