

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2006

Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Peterson:

We are writing to urge you and your colleagues on the Agriculture Committee to include significant, market-oriented reforms of the sugar price support program in the new farm bill that you will be developing over the coming months.

For too long, this nation has endured the adverse consequences of the current sugar program. Consumers have had to pay artificially high prices for sugar. Well-paying jobs in the sugar-using components of the food industry have been lost as facilities have been shuttered and moved abroad. Our farmers, manufacturers, and service providers have been frustrated in their efforts to obtain access to foreign markets for their products. And U.S. sugar farmers, the intended beneficiaries of the program, are watching the demand for their product stagnate and shrink because of the way current policies are designed – with the prospect of more erosion ahead. All of these problems arise from the federal government’s present sugar policy, which controls supply in order to keep prices at levels that otherwise would be unsustainable.

In the last few years, whenever we have tried to make changes to the sugar program, we have been met with the argument that the rules cannot be changed in midstream and that we should wait until the next farm bill to seek reform.

We are now at the threshold of the next farm bill, and we want to ensure that the sugar issue is addressed satisfactorily. We are prepared to work with you and the other members of the Agriculture Committee to formulate a sugar program that permits a free and open marketplace to function. We are determined to pursue sugar reform resolutely, and strongly encourage the committee to adopt changes to the current program that will obviate the need for further debate on the House floor.

We acknowledge the many challenges you face in crafting the new farm bill. It is because of those many challenges that we wish to emphasize the critical need to reform the sugar program, and to express our willingness to cooperate with you and the committee to achieve this result.

Sincerely,

Jeff M

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Shane Kira

Earl Blumenauer

Charles W Dent

Melvin L Bean

Marsha Blackburn

Tim Walle

Tim Galt

J. Pata

Dwain Bryan

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Tom Davis

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Bobby Lush

Ed Royce

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Donald Payne

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Ann M. Nashup

Tom Peter

Bill Parrelly.

Wesley

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John E. Sullivan

Frank Palom Jr.

Tim Lee

Shelley Bentley

Ch. Lee

Al. Murphy

Tim Murphy

Bob Inglis

Ing Pitts

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Jim Gibbons

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Rust Holt

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick

Joe Lopez

Lois Capron

Michael E. Capron

John Boozma

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Jim Martin

Tom Allen

Tom Tancredo

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Scott Garrett

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Pete Hockstra

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Stephen D. Lynch

Clay Shaw

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