

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR TRADE COALITION, INC.

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March 10, 2018

Chairman Michael Conaway
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1783

Ranking Member Collin Peterson
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2307

Re: Renewal of the Sugar Program in the 2018 Farm Bill

Dear Chairman Conaway and Ranking Member Peterson:

We are writing on behalf of our members, which are traditional suppliers under the U.S. tariff rate quota (TRQ) on raw sugar, to urge you to renew the current U.S. sugar program without changes in the context of the 2018 Farm Bill.

With the successful conclusion of the amended Suspension Agreements in the antidumping and countervailing duty cases on unfairly traded sugar from Mexico, stability has returned to the U.S. sugar market. With the elimination of Mexico's unfair trade practices, the current terms of the sugar program provide USDA with the regulatory tools it needs to maintain adequate supplies of sugar, at reasonable prices for U.S. consumers, and at no cost to the U.S. Government.

The International Sugar Trade Coalition (ISTC) is a non-profit association of sugar suppliers under the U.S. TRQ on raw sugar from: Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Panama, the Philippines, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. The members of ISTC represent approximately half of the TRQ. Continued access to the U.S. market at reasonable prices remains of critical importance to ISTC's members.

Please let us know if we can provide further information on the importance of renewing the U.S. sugar program in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Ryberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Ryberg" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Ryberg
President