



November 14, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

The [Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy](#) (AFSP) extends its heartfelt congratulations to you on your successful leadership election. Now that you have had a moment to settle into your new office, we want to convey our strong agreement with the concerns you laid out in your acceptance speech regarding the tremendous burden of high food prices on American families. We see a great opportunity to work together on this issue.

The AFSP counts among its membership hundreds of American small, family-owned businesses and manufacturers, retailers, and food and beverage companies in all 50 states that employ more than 600,000 workers. Our coalition also includes trade associations, conservative and free market advocacy organizations, consumer groups, taxpayer watchdogs, environmental advocates, think tanks, and many others. Together, we are united in pursuit of a fairer, simpler U.S. sugar program.

Congress faces many pressing challenges in the weeks and months ahead, but we urge lawmakers to seize on a critical opportunity to reduce food prices and provide relief to millions of Americans and small businesses by making commonsense, bipartisan reforms to our nation's sugar policy during the farm bill reauthorization process. For nearly 90 years, Congress has not meaningfully updated the U.S. sugar program. Its complex, outdated tools have not kept pace with America's dynamic farm and food economy, resulting in everyday Americans paying twice the world price for sugar and adding as much as \$3.5 billion to their grocery bills each year.

A [recent report](#) from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) documented the massive economic consequences of failing to reform the U.S. sugar program, with findings that the program creates supply shortages for domestic food production and contributes to higher costs for manufacturers, workers, and American families. As Congress moves toward reauthorization of the farm bill, AFSP plans to pursue targeted changes, consistent with the GAO's recommendations, to simplify sugar program administration, reform trade restrictions, and create much-needed flexibility to help ensure that an adequate sugar supply is available for our economy.

AFSP is fully committed to supporting solutions that not only will address our significant supply challenges, increase supply chain reliability for manufacturers, and lower costs for consumers, but also protect the farm safety net for sugar producers. We appreciate your consideration of this important issue and again offer our congratulations on your new role. We look forward to working with you to deliver positive results for American families.

Sincerely,

Grant Colvin
Executive Director
Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy