



November 30, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

The Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy (AFSP) applauds the creation of the White House Council on Supply Chain Resilience, and we are encouraged by your administration's continued attention to the challenges impeding the efficient flow of goods, particularly in the agricultural and food manufacturing sectors.

Even as extraordinary federal investments have been made toward resolving supply chain disruptions since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, AFSP urges your administration, the newly announced Council, and Congress to address the significant and recurring issues that continue to hamper the food manufacturing supply chain resulting from America's outdated sugar policy. Remarkably, the U.S. sugar program has not been meaningfully reformed in almost 90 years. The severe supply restrictions at the center of the program are out of step with America's dynamic farm and food economy and have needlessly pushed up food prices for hardworking families, eliminated thousands of American manufacturing jobs, and forced numerous companies to move their operations abroad.

Last month, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report, which, among other findings, found that the overcomplicated structure of the sugar import quotas imposed by the U.S. sugar program resulted in "persistent shortfalls" of sugar supplies. GAO also found that these supply chain challenges have been compounded by delays in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) direction to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to respond to this government-inflicted trade imbalance. These shortages have thrown food manufacturing supply chains into disarray. In recent years, this sugar supply mismanagement combined with severe weather events have prompted numerous *force majeure* declarations from domestic sugar suppliers, requiring some food manufacturers to shut down their facilities for days at a time and cut hours for workers.

We encourage your administration to pursue the administrative modifications recommended by the GAO. Importantly, both USDA and USTR have agreed with the GAO's recommendations. We also urge you to work with Congress to ensure that targeted updates to the U.S. sugar program are included in the next farm bill.

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 consumer groups, environmental advocates, trade associations, conservative and free market advocacy organizations, taxpayer watchdogs,

think thanks, and many others. Together, we are united in pursuit of a fairer, simpler U.S. sugar program. We look forward to working with you to bring down food costs for families across the country and bolster American manufacturing.

Sincerely,

Grant Colvin  
Executive Director  
Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy

