ALLIANCE FOR
FAIR SUGAR POLICY

January 16, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1010 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, Chairman Boozman, and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy (AFSP) congratulates you on assuming your leadership positions. Our coalition of small, family-owned businesses and manufacturers, retailers, trade associations, environmental advocates, taxpayer watchdog organizations, think tanks, and others looks forward to partnering with you to pass a farm bill that boosts the U.S. farm and food economy and lowers costs for families.

As you know, inflation and food costs remain top concerns for Americans. Grocery prices have increased more than 25 percent since 2019, outpacing inflation more broadly and consuming a growing share of family budgets. This financial strain is particularly acute for low-income individuals who necessarily spend a high percentage of their income on staple food items. As the 119th Congress commences, it's clear that families in all corners of the country are eager for their elected representatives to take high food costs seriously and provide meaningful relief.

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Fortunately, by recently advancing policies to modernize the U.S. sugar program, leaders in Congress have demonstrated that bipartisan cooperation on tackling food costs is achievable. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, as passed by the House Agriculture Committee last May, would make targeted, commonsense reforms to outdated sugar policies that are creating supply shortages for American manufacturers and elevating food costs for consumers.

Notably, the Senate echoed support for this package of sugar program reforms by including the same policies in their own farm bill proposals. And perhaps for the first time ever, both sugar growers and food manufacturers seized this opportunity for progress and came together to endorse the changes. In effect, the previous Congress is handing the current one a pre-assembled, bipartisan policy solution to strengthen America's food supply chain and help lower grocery prices.

Congress should build on this momentum and move swiftly to pass a farm bill with these sensible sugar program reforms. Our broad and diverse coalition stands ready to help you as the critical farm bill process moves forward.

We appreciate your leadership and consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Grant Colvin
Executive Director
Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy