



March 29, 2017

To: Republican U.S. Senators and Representatives:
From: Free-Market Sugar Advocates
Re: Free-Market Advocates Urge Members of Congress to Support Zero-for-Zero Resolution on U.S. Sugar Policy

Dear Member of Congress,

The new Trump administration has signaled a significant shift in overall trade policy, with a greater emphasis on assuring trade deals are both fair and balanced.

In a detailed speech on trade last summer in Pennsylvania, Donald Trump strongly criticized “subsidized foreign steel” which “has left millions of our workers with nothing but poverty and heartache.”

“America...has allowed foreign countries to subsidize their goods, devalue their currencies, violate their agreements and cheat in every way imaginable, and our politicians did nothing about it,” Mr. Trump said.

To remedy the problem, Mr. Trump promised to “identify every violation of trade agreements a foreign country is currently using to harm” American workers and businesses and “then direct all appropriate agencies to use every tool under American and international law to end these abuses.”

If elected, “The era of economic surrender will finally be over,” Mr. Trump promised. “We will stand up to trade cheating anywhere and everywhere it threatens the American job.”

In reality, Mr. Trump’s strategic trade position is already embodied in U.S. sugar policy.

For years, foreign competitors have been unfairly subsidizing their sugar industries. But

thanks to the U.S. sugar program of targeted tariffs and quotas, the American sugar industry hasn't been devastated like American steel.

Nevertheless, critics of American sugar policy have been calling on Congress to unilaterally eliminate the U.S. sugar program without preconditions, which would directly benefit foreign government competitors.

Instead, it would be more responsible to adopt Congressman Ted Yoho's "Zero-for-Zero" resolution in which the U.S. will agree to end our sugar program in return for foreign governments agreeing to simultaneously end their subsidy programs. This would be a win-win for everybody and perfectly consistent with fair and balanced free-market principles.

In fact, a recent study by the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy, released in January, 2017, found that...

"All parties should be able to find common ground in the approach proposed in Congress by Representative Ted Yoho (R-FL), along with a group of bi-partisan co-sponsors, which calls on the president to engage in negotiations through the World Trade Organization to end all direct and indirect subsidies in the production and export of sugar."

http://www.thomasjeffersoninst.org/files/3/2017_FreerMarketSugar.pdf

As such, we the undersigned urge Members to support Rep. Yoho's "Zero-for-Zero" resolution.

Sincerely,



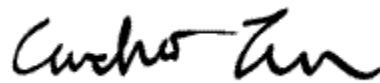
Chuck Muth
Citizen Outreach



Seton Motley
Less Government



Rick Manning
Americans for Limited Government



Andrew Langer
Institute for Liberty



Jim Martin
60-Plus Association



Mario Lopez
Hispanic Leadership Fund



Matthew Kandrach
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy



Michael Thompson
Thomas Jefferson Institute