



January 30, 2004

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_ :

On behalf of the millions of American consumers of sugar and sugar-containing products in the United States, I am writing to urge you to contact the White House and express your support for including sugar in the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement. Consumers for World Trade (CWT) is a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization, established in 1978 to promote the consumer interest in international trade and to enhance the public's awareness of the benefits of an open, multilateral trading system to everyone's daily life. CWT is the only consumer group in America whose sole mission is to educate, advocate and mobilize consumers to support trade opening legislation.

Excluding sugar from the negotiations sets a dangerous precedent for future trade agreements. First, failure to include sugar in the negotiations gives Australia incentive to remove their own import sensitive commodities from the negotiations. This in turn will harm American farmers and ranchers who wish to export to Australia. Second, failure to liberalize our own sugar market is a huge disservice to American consumers. An FTA that includes sugar will increase competition in the U.S. market, enhancing efficiency and benefiting industrial and retail consumers. Sugar from Australia will provide much-needed throughput for the hard-pressed U.S. cane refining industry, which has lost over 5,000 jobs since 1981. A more competitive sugar market will help reverse the disturbing trend of job losses in the confectionary industry, which have amounted to 7,500-10,000 lost jobs in just the last six years, according to a recent study by Promar International.

We urge you and your colleagues in the Administration to remember the interests of U.S. consumers and sugar-dependent industries that employ millions of workers. They, too, vote and pay taxes in this country. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Erik Autor  
President  
Consumers for World Trade