



American Bakers Association

The Voice of the Baking Industry Since 1897

Robb MacKie, President & CEO

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June 19, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: ABA Key Vote – Support Toomey Amendment #2433 to the Agriculture Food, Farm and Jobs Act, Reforming the Current U.S. Sugar Program

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The American Bakers Association (ABA) strongly urges you to vote “yes” on Senator Toomey’s amendment #2433, amending the Agriculture Food, Farm and Jobs Act.

ABA is the Washington D.C.-based voice of the wholesale baking industry. Since 1897, ABA has represented the interests of bakers before the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, and international regulatory authorities. ABA advocates on behalf of more than 700 baking facilities and baking company suppliers. The baking industry generates more than \$102 billion in economic activity annually and employs more than 633,000 highly skilled people.

Amendment #2433 is genuine reform that will help bakers, consumers, and workers who now bear the cost of the sugar program – an annual cost of \$3.5 billion in higher prices, and 20,000 foregone jobs. The current sugar program forces bakers and consumers to typically pay twice the world average price for sugar, limiting the industry’s competitiveness and sending food industry jobs overseas.

The amendment does not end the sugar program, but reverses new and onerous provisions that were passed in 2008, while improving program administration and transparency. The original version of amendment #2433 was cosponsored by Sens. Shaheen, Lugar, Kirk, Durbin, Toomey, Coats, Portman, Feinstein, Whitehouse and Ayotte.

Thank you for your consideration of this extremely critical issue for America’s baking industry. The current sugar program has led to the loss of over 125,000 jobs between 1997 and 2010. To help restart the economy and gain these jobs back, **ABA urges members of the Senate to support Senator Toomey’s sugar reform amendment #2433 to S.3240, The Agriculture Food, Farm and Jobs Act. This will be a key vote for ABA.**

Sincerely,

Robb MacKie

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate