

# U.S. SUGAR POLICY SUPPORTS GOOD AMERICAN JOBS

The majority of sugar companies in the U.S. are owned by farmers or employees — the success of many of our communities is tied to the ability of farmers to grow sugar crops, and the skills and expertise of mill and factory employees to produce and deliver our product to American families.

Our industry, working closely with our employees, fights to maintain our no-cost sugar policy in order to keep good jobs here at home. **The sugar industry provides well-paying jobs in both rural and urban areas throughout America, especially in areas where job opportunities can be limited.**

100% of beet sugar processors employ union labor, as do most cane refineries.

Consistent with the principles and goals of those union organizations, the sugar industry provides our employees with the dignity of a safe job and equal opportunities. All strive to pay fair wages and offer good benefits to their workers, collectively totaling \$4.2 billion.

**Our industry takes pride in fostering a skilled workforce.** Whether it's reaching out to high schools to raise awareness of career opportunities in the sugar industry, partnering with community colleges to develop educational opportunities, or providing tuition reimbursement, additional training and technical classes, we are continually encouraging growth and career advancement.

**Our companies and employees are active within our communities.** We engage with local leaders to support the social fabric of their neighborhoods by volunteering for the local fire department, sponsoring sports teams and youth organizations, and offering scholarships to outstanding high school graduates.

Meanwhile, the heavily subsidized world sugar market punishes workers and farmers abroad with prices that don't even cover ½ of the average cost of producing sugar. Our industry seeks to provide American sugar farmers and employees with a fairer marketplace.

The U.S. Department of Labor has cited some of the world's biggest sugar industries, including Brazil, Thailand and India, for child and forced labor abuses.

Major exporters have risen to prominence on the backs of workers living far below the poverty line. Thai agriculture workers, for example, earn just \$100 a month.

If there's no sugar policy, we have

“ no land, no future, no job, no home.”

**Cornelius Fowler** | IAM Florida Sugar Workers Union



BACKING AMERICA'S BEET AND CANE FARMERS