



1300 L Street NW, Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 785-1122

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC, 20201

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Whitten Building, Room 200A
Washington DC, 20250

RE: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD: The Scientific Report of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee

Dear Secretaries Burwell and Vilsack:

The Sugar Association (Association) respectfully requests the Secretaries extend the comment period to respond to the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Report (Advisory Report) for an additional 60 days to June 8, 2015. The current deadline of April 8, 2015 does not provide sufficient time to carefully review and comment on this 571 page Advisory Report.

The Association's request for extension of the comment period is clearly justified by the unexpected inclusion of an Added Sugars Working Group at the 6th Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) meeting on November 7, 2015, at the end of an almost two year process. The Added Sugars Working Group waited until the end of the DGAC process to disclose profound changes in recommendations on "added sugars" intake from current dietary guidance and scientific consensus. Further, the Added Sugars Working Group's disclosures in November only allowed stakeholders a little over a month to provide comments to the Committee prior to the final DGAC meeting on December 15, 2015.

Therefore, in the interest of a fair process, we ask that the comment period be extended to allow sufficient time for stakeholders to evaluate the science used by the Added Sugars Working Group as justification for recommendations in the Advisory Report to the Secretaries.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew C. Briscoe III, CAE
President & CEO

The Sugar Association represents United States sugar cane growers and refiners, and sugar beet growers and processors. Association members account for a majority of sugar production in the United States. Founded in 1943, our mission is to monitor nutrition science, to educate consumers about sugar and to ensure that nutrition policy regarding sugar is based on the preponderance of scientific evidence. Based on the totality of scientific evidence, we promote sugar consumption in moderation as a safe and useful part of a balanced diet and active lifestyle.