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Independent Study and Mentorship

Speice 4B

13 October 2017

The Impacts of Lobbying on Public Policy

Research Assessment 4

Subject:

State Public Policy

Works Cited:

"Battle over US sugar policy ensues." *Food Engineering*, Apr. 2013, p. 15. *Science In Context*,
go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=GPS&sw=w&u=j043905010&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA345612570&it=r&asid=66e32b4eda6e4826da430eba156eeb13. Accessed 12 Oct. 2017.

Assessment:

In an attempt to explore more of the influences on policy makers in drafting legislation, I worked towards understanding this particular source underlining a battle between private sugar-related agencies and the American governmental bodies that impose regulations and requirements on their companies. Within the context of this specific debate, the article discussed a deeper meaning behind the sugar producers' and confectioners' arguments, where research

from the United States Department of Agriculture suggests that both sugar prices are plummeting and surpluses are rising. After thorough macroeconomic analysis of each of these arguments, it is to be believed that harmful consequences do occur from the change in the sugar market. Thus, in an attempt to rectify these changes, producers such as the American Sugar Association (ASA), an organization of various businesses whose profit relies on aggregate sales of sugar, lobby to push the reform of the sugar market, where “government price supports” should “trim” to work towards price equilibrium.

From this article, I feel that I truly understood the importance of critically analyzing an issue and its background before implementing policy or speaking publicly of it. Such a lesson is emphasized in the understanding of macroeconomics and the level at which organizations such as the American Sugar Association spend to push their agenda. Before any policy or work can be accomplished within Congress, every national representative must be able to comprehend each issue and respond according to their constituents’ expected reactions. Indeed, understanding the correct statistics and background information of an issue is vital to moving towards a moral solution of an issue. Within the future, I hope to be able to implement such a value into my daily life, where I would be able to discover more about an issue either discussed in class or with a peer to focus in on the more relevant and significant aspects of debate.

Not only that, but another crucial concept gained from analyzing the struggle within legislative bodies over changes in sugar legislation is that the amount of money an organization puts forth to appeal to representatives has a substantial impact on the degree of policy influence. After researching the various amounts some lobbyists are willing to put forth towards implementing policy change (some private lobbyists go so far as to spend over \$60 million

towards achieving this goal), I have found that a large amount of spent money, surprisingly, does not necessarily correlate with a profound change in policy; sometimes, a large sum of lobbying only works towards a small amount of passed legislation, rather than a sweeping change in American domestic policy. Thus, in this way, it is crucial to understand that although lobbying does require a significant amount of spending to push an agenda, sometimes the results only show a slight change in policy or development of change across the board. Equipped with this information, I hope to be more aware of the larger numbers private associations throw out in an attempt to appeal for change in their favor, but rather look more intently at the core values and hopes behind their agendas.

[Sugar](#) producers and confectioners are engaged in a heated lobbying battle over US sugar policy, with producers pointing to a pair of USDA reports as evidence of needed support[.] The American Sugar Alliance says USDA found average January sugar prices continued a downward spiral. The second report, the group says, shows America is building a significant sugar surplus, suggesting continued economic difficulty for producers. The trade group is trying to head off a move in Congress to trim government price supports, an action championed by many manufacturers.