

### *Statement on behalf of the IPIA*

The International Packaged Ice Association, IPIA, is aware of the current investigation into competitive conduct within the packaged ice industry, which has resulted in some press inquiries to the Association. Our Association is not the focus of the investigation, and the Association staff has no knowledge of the facts of particular matters and thus no ability to comment on them. We look forward to the resolution of all legal matters concerning our industry. The IPIA does not condone illegal or anticompetitive conduct in our industry or any other.

The IPIA's mission is to assist our members to provide the retailer and consumer with a safe, high-quality, consumable food product. IPIA members recognize that ICE IS A FOOD and meet mandatory safe packaged ice accreditation standards as verified by an independent third party auditor. We take great pride in making sure all of our members are educated on IPIA standards and practices.

#### Facts about the Ice Industry

IPIA represents more than 400 packaged ice manufacturing and distribution facilities. Our members account for less than an estimated 40% of the overall packaged ice produced and sold for human consumption in the United States. Because there is little or no State or Federal regulatory oversight of this food product, the IPIA has proactively adopted its own health and safety standards, entitled Packaged Ice Quality Control Standards (PIQCS). PIQCS is a mandatory code of standards adhered to by our members for producing packaged ice and is based on both federal Good Manufacturing Practices customized for packaged ice and the IPIA's Sanitary Standards for Packaged Ice.

In the absence of effective and consistent state and federal regulation applicable to all packaged ice producers, only by insisting on the products of IPIA members can retailers and consumers ensure that their packaged ice is manufactured to the highest quality standards. The IPIA is concerned about the quality and safety of all packaged ice sold to consumers and takes extensive steps to monitor the PIQCS code of standards. IPIA encourages all packaged ice manufacturers to comply with PIQCS.