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## **IBA CHAIRMAN DEMANDS BAKERS' SHARE OF SIX CENT SUGAR GIVEAWAY**

Independent Bakers Association Chairman Ron Cardey, CEO of BelPastry located in Omaha, Nebraska, commented that "Americans are seeing the start of the Federal Government taking a path down a slippery slope with sugar." The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting 85,000 short tons of sugar as payment for \$34.5 million in loans to sugar processors. "It's clear American taxpayers are directly supporting the US sugar industry and should be very concerned that USDA says there is a 'substantial risk' of additional forfeitures," said Cardey. Approximately \$306.7 million of sugar-beet and sugarcane loans are coming due at the end of this month according to USDA data.

In a statement this week the USDA acknowledges that government measures failed to erase a domestic oversupply. The agency spent about \$61.7 million in June and July to prop up sugar prices with a mix of purchases and export credits. The department subsidized the sale of 7,100 tons at six cents a pound to ethanol refiners for the first time under the Feedstock Flexibility Program. ***Cardey wants bakers to also be allowed to purchase sugar at six cents a pound as long the government is "giving away sugar."***

In response to the federal giveaway, the Independent Bakers Association is composing an open-letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack including the difficulties the unpredictable government sugar program impose on the baking industry. Members are encouraged to submit comments and opinions for the letter to our office.

The Independent Bakers Association is a Washington DC-based trade association for mostly small to medium sized, family-owned, wholesale bakers and allied industry trades. Questions and comments should be directed to our office:

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