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## **BOTTLED WATER COMPANY CHALLENGES PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTIONS**

Lansing, Mich. — Nestle Waters North America today took legal action challenging product distribution restrictions imposed on permits issued recently by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to the company in conjunction with its plan to purchase water from the City of Ewart.

These unprecedented conditions were imposed despite the fact that Nestle Waters is a small and responsible user of water, using substantially less water than other water users such as electricity producers, manufacturers, other food and beverage makers and agricultural and golf course irrigators. In fact, the entire Michigan bottled water industry, approximately 20 bottlers, is estimated to use just six one-hundredths of one percent of reported groundwater use in Michigan. Water purchased from Ewart will be bottled for human consumption at the Ice Mountain bottling facility in Stanwood, Michigan.

Documents were filed today in the Circuit Court for Ingham County and in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan.

“The restrictive nature of the conditions left us no choice but to take this action today,” said Michael Haines, an attorney representing Nestle Waters. “Nestle Waters is only asserting the same rights that every other water user in Michigan enjoys.”

Nestle Waters cites several violations of law in its documents. The company is asserting that the permit conditions are an unlawful restriction on interstate commerce and are unfair and discriminatory in violation of the U.S. Constitution, and that no law authorizes the MDEQ to impose these restrictions.

*Nestle Waters is the parent company of Stanwood, Michigan based Ice Mountain. Ice Mountain currently employs 158 people at its facility, with a \$9.5 million annual payroll. Nestle Water is the leading bottled water company in the U.S.*

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