



Diane Kurrle

Senior Vice President



Your Apple Voice in DC

- What does advocacy mean?
- We identify and pursue common goals for a diverse membership

 Apple perspective to the White House, Congress and like-minded coalitions,



Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops

- December \$900 million
- April +\$1.3 billion
- USApple pushed for
 - Raise limit from \$125,000 to \$900,000
 - AGI waived if ≥ 75% of income from ag
 - Simplicity & CFAP2 >\$300 million to apple growers





Industry Wins in the "Big Beautiful Bill" Act

- 2x funding for the Market Access Program
- Increased funding for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative and Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
- Improvements to the Tree Assistance Program and crop insurance
- Waived AGI caps for growers earning ≥ 75% from ag for disaster & conservation programs



Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance

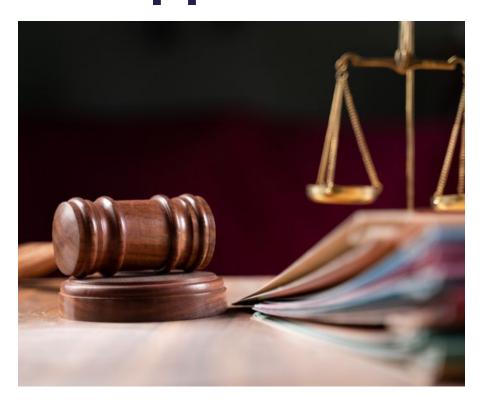
- USApple Founding Member
 - Steering & Leg Committees
- Focus on Competitiveness
 - Research
 - Marketing
 - Export Promotion
- Equitable Treatment



Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance
Legislative Committee at Senate Briefing



H-2A Lawsuit: Judge Rules in Favor of USApple



- October 2024, USApple joined a lawsuit challenging the DOL's 2024 H-2A rule
- Lawsuit sought injunction against most burdensome provisions.
- November federal court ruled DOL lacked authority to issue key parts of the rule
- Overturned provisions included a requirement that H-2A employers allow unionization





Trump Deputy Labor Secretary Keith Sonderling & USApple Incoming Chairman Steve Smith

H-2A Regulatory Reform

- Unprecedented opportunities
- De-regulation mandate
- DOL & DHS as allies?
- What about the White House?



H-2A & Workforce Reform Legislation



Congressman John Moolenaar (R-MI) with Diane Smith and Diane Kurrle

- AEWR Freeze
 - Moolenaar
 - Huizenga
- Broad Reform Efforts
 - House Ag Committee
 - FWMA
 - Dignity Act
- Other champions emerging



Coalitions Amplify Our Voice





Ag Labor Coalition at the White House and Business Coalition at Speaker's Balcony





USApple Capitol Hill Day



Pennsylvania Leaders with Sen. Dave McCormick and CEO Jim Bair and Officers with Trump USDA Trade Staff





New York Leaders with Rep. Josh Riley



Board Member Daniel Rowley with Idaho Senator Jim Risch



Michigan Leaders with Senator Elise Slotkin



Save the Date! Capitol Hill Day March 10, 2026





Please Stay in Touch

Dkurrle@usapple.org 202-841-4173

