



December 14, 2005

The Honorable Richard W. Pombo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2411 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0511

Dear Congressman Pombo:

The U.S. Apple Association (USApple) strongly opposes H.R.4437 – the Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 – as it is written. The bill’s enforcement-only approach to immigration and border security would adversely impact the American apple industry.

H.R. 4437’s retroactive mandatory electronic verification of employment eligibility would have the practical effect of virtually eliminating the U.S. apple industry’s workforce without any viable means of replacing it. The American apple industry depends on manual, seasonal labor to harvest nearly 225 million bushels of apples annually, with annual farm-gate revenue of \$1.6 billion. If H.R. 4437 is enacted, American apple growers will be left without any workers to harvest their crop, seriously threatening multi-generational orchards and family farming operations.

**We urge you to stand up for agriculture and vote NO on H.R. 4437.** We agree with President Bush when he said, “We will not be able to effectively enforce our immigration law until we create a temporary worker program.” The U.S. apple industry supports a comprehensive approach to immigration reform that addresses the need for a stable and reliable workforce for agriculture.

USApple is the national trade association representing all segments of the U.S. apple industry. Members include 40 state and regional apple associations representing growers across the country, as well as individual companies that support our nation’s apple growers. USApple’s mission is to provide the means for all segments of the U.S. apple industry to join in appropriate, collective efforts to profitably produce and market apples and apple products.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Foster  
President, U.S. Apple Association

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