

ROBERT L. GUENTHER

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC POLICY
UNITED FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Robert Lewis Guenther is currently Senior Vice President of Public Policy for *United Fresh Produce Association* headquartered in Washington, DC. Throughout his career Robert has built a record of competent and professional service and the ability to work effectively in a bipartisan manner, which is critical in today's political environment and at any organization. Representing United Fresh 1,700 member companies, Robert leads a government and public affairs staff in representing the fresh fruit and vegetable industry before the U.S. Congress, Administration, regulatory agencies, and the media. During his tenure with United Fresh he has been interviewed by CNN and C-Span and has been quoted in major media publications including the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, LA Times, and U.S. News and World Report.

He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the produce industry's North American Dispute Resolution Corporation and as Treasurer of the Minor Crop Farm Alliance. He has been appointed by U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Office to serve on the Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee on Trade and the ATAC on Trade for Fruits and Vegetables. In 2005, Robert was chosen as one of *The Packers Twenty-Five* presented annually by the Vance Publishing Company as one of the 25 most influential people in the produce industry. In 2010, Robert was appointed to serve on the Food Drug and Law Institutes 24-member *Food and Drug Policy Forum Editorial Advisory Board*, comprised of 8 representatives of leading associations interested in food and drug law issues and 16 individuals, provides peer review and guidance on articles considered for publication in the Forum. In 2014 CEO Update recognized Robert as one of the *Top Association Lobbyist* for his work on the 2014 Farm Bill.

Prior to joining United Fresh staff, Mr. Guenther served as Policy Coordinator/Subcommittee consultant for Congressman Gary Condit (CA-18) from 1991-1993 and then from 1994 – 1999. Congressman Condit was a Member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture since 1989, and Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Risk Management, Specialty Crops and Research.

From 1989 – 1992, Robert worked as a Congressional Aide for the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture. During his tenure, Robert focused on environmental issues – including wetlands, clean water, pesticides and forestry – however he was often called upon to offer his knowledge and expertise on a multitude of issues for the Committee and its Members.

While on Capitol Hill, he actively worked on the formulation of major legislative endeavors including the *Food Agriculture Conservation and Trade Act* (1990 Farm Bill), the *Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act* (1996 Farm Bill), and the *Food Quality Protection Act* (FQPA). He was also involved in major trade legislation including the *General Agreement on Tariff and Trade* (GATT), the *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA) and fast-track proposals of 1991, 1993 and 1997. These legislative endeavors gave him an historical knowledge and understanding of agriculture, pesticide, and trade legislation permitting him to make and solidify relationships with the agricultural community – including commodity, consumer, farm and environmental groups.

In 1993, Robert took a sabbatical from Capitol Hill and worked for the Florida Sugar Cane League as Director of Government Relations, representing the interest of hundreds of Florida sugar cane farmers before Congress and the Federal Government. He gained unique understanding of a trade association's framework and responsibilities to its members while educating elected officials and government representatives about sugar farming and United States policies and regulations affecting his membership.

Robert also served as an Environmental Protection Specialist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1988. He gained insight into the inner-workings of a U.S. agency and learned how to analyze and address political and policy concerns to reach resolution – as well as an understanding of the regulatory process for pesticide/chemical registration and re-registration.

Robert Guenther holds a BA in Government and Politics and a Masters of Science in Public Administration – both from the University of Maryland. He currently lives in Washington, DC and has three children, Roman Joel, Daria Kathryn, and George Lewis.