



ARA STAFF



Vice President Regulatory Policy & Corporate Relations

Jim Thrift brings 35 years Ag business experience to his position as ARA's vice president of regulatory policy and corporate relations, and currently represents the crop input sub-sector for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's food and agriculture sector. Thrift represents the interests of Ag retailers before the regulatory agencies to ensure America's retailers receive fair consideration before governing entities. In addition, Thrift serves as the co-lead role on ARA's corporate relations programs in an effort to promote ARA's brand to its and members, and the general public.

During his career, Thrift has held various executive management, marketing, and sales positions. He has served as a trustee on The National Cotton Council Foundation, the Agricultural Retailers Association Board of Directors, The National Corn Growers Industry Relations Group, U.S. Grains Council Executive Committee and the Stewardship Committee of the National Aerial Applicators Association. Thrift also has served as a member of the Crop Life America's State Government Affairs Committee.

In addition, Thrift has received numerous awards that include the Industry Meritorious Service Award from the American Soybean Association and the Distinguished Service Award from the Agricultural Retailers Association. In 1997, he was named to the Alpha Zeta Centennial Honor Roll of 100 individuals who have a career of outstanding support of U.S. Agriculture.

Thrift holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy from California State Polytechnic University and is very knowledgeable of western crop production and pest control practices.