



# Breakout Session

1:30-2:30 PM  
Africa 50

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**Denise Bode**

**President, Constitution Partners**

**Patrick Firth**

**Partner, Constitution Partners**

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## AFVPGC Federal Policy Update

Denise Bode and Patrick Firth represent the AFVPGC in Washington, DC. They will offer insights on the third year of the Biden Administration, and update the group on the USDA, EPA and FDA, and on the AFVPGC's priority issues: parity and access for all forms of fruits and vegetables in government-sponsored feeding programs; tariff and trade issues on tin plate steel; and other trade provisions affecting the food processing industry and federal immigration reform efforts.

### Bio:

#### Denise Bode

Denise focuses on food, energy and environment, trade and tax policy advice and counsel. She has been working with Congress and with the Administration at the FDA, USDA, USTR, the Department of Commerce, and the White House on behalf of the Institute of Food Technology, American Counsel of Independent Laboratories, and the American Fruit and Vegetable Growers and Processors Coalition. She has testified before Congress and has extensive public speaking experience. Denise holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma, a JD from the George Mason School of Law, and a Masters of Law in Taxation from the Georgetown University School of Law.

#### Patrick Firth

Patrick plays a leading role representing clients on and off Capitol Hill across a range of issues including appropriations, energy & environment, food & agriculture, tax, and trade. Patrick also assists in providing high quality public relations, political strategy, and crisis communications services. Patrick is active in political campaigns and was elected to serve as Chair of the Talbot County Democratic Central Committee in Maryland. He's certified by the National Democratic Training Committee to conduct political training seminars for candidates and activists on political strategy, communications, and social media "best practices". He has a Bachelor of Arts in Government and History from the College of William & Mary and is chair of the William & Mary Sailing Alumni Association.