Update from Albany: Helping apple farmers grow boosts New York's economy

By Assemblyman Bill Magee

Ask anyone to list their favorite things about growing apple in New York and you'll undoubtedly get a response that includes apples. Whether you're enjoying a slice of homemade apple pie, a mug of hot cider or a day of apple-picking with family and friends, the fall season is a time to celebrate the delicious fruits of our labor. Apple trees were first planted in New York in 1680, and today the state is one of the leading apple producers in the nation. The apple industry is critical not just for farmers, but for all New Yorkers. "The apple is a metaphor for hard work and determination," said Magee. "It's a fruit that requires care and attention, just like the state of New York where we work hard to make our communities thrive." Magee pointed to the success of the Apple Orchard Trail Program, which promotes apple orchards and cider houses as tourist destinations, as an example of how the state is working to support the apple industry. "By investing in these programs, we're not only helping our farmers, but also helping to drive economic growth and tourism," he said. Magee also highlighted the importance of supporting local apple orchards and cider houses. "The apple industry is a key part of our state's agricultural heritage," he said. "By supporting local producers, we're preserving this important part of our history and culture." Magee concluded by encouraging New Yorkers to visit local apple orchards and cider houses to enjoy the delicious fruits of our labor. He added, "We're proud of the hard work and dedication that goes into growing apples, and we want to ensure that our apple farmers have the support they need to thrive."