

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2016

Contacts: Heather Ranck, 701-239-5080
or Heather.Ranck@trade.gov
Karley Serati, WCCO Belting Inc., 701-642-8787

WCCO Belting, Inc. Receives Top National Exporting Honor First Time a North Dakota Firm Has Won the “E” Star Award

On March 16, 2016, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker awarded WCCO Belting, Inc. with the President’s “E” Star Award for Exports. The Wahpeton, North Dakota based company received the highest exporting honor any U.S. company can receive for making an impact to expand U.S. exports. It was the first time any North Dakota company received the “E” Star Award, which recognizes companies for their continued excellence in exporting. WCCO Belting had previously received the “E” Award in 2010.

“WCCO Belting has demonstrated a sustained commitment to export expansion,” said Pritzker. “The “E” Awards Committee was very impressed with WCCO Belting’s adaptation of its product line and development of new products for exports. The company’s commitment to cross-cultural communication was also particularly notable. WCCO Belting’s achievements have undoubtedly contributed to national export expansion efforts that support the U.S. economy and create American jobs.”



Tom and Julie Shorma receive E-Star Award from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker (L) in Washington, D.C.

WCCO Belting, Inc. manufactures rubber conveyor belts for the agriculture industry, harvest applications, and for material and package handling. WCCO Belting is in a niche market catering to large publicly traded companies and small manufacturers who need a customized product. Their RAPTOR® Draper Belting for combine harvest headers is now supplied to every major agricultural original equipment manufacturer in the world.

“Using tools such as trade missions, export compliance trainings and market research programs has helped turn our dream of gaining global market share into an achievable goal,” said WCCO Belting President / CEO Tom Shorma, who also serves as Chairman of the North Dakota District Export Council.

At the 2016 ceremony, Secretary Pritzker awarded the “E” Award to 123 U.S. companies. There was at least one award-winning exporter from every U.S. state, which was a first. In 1961, President Kennedy signed an executive order reviving the World War II “E” symbol of excellence to honor and provide recognition to America’s exporters.

###