



[U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross](#), along with [U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Stephen Censky](#), visited Fargo on August 23rd, at the invitation of Representative Kevin Cramer. The visit gave Secretary Ross and Deputy Secretary Censky an opportunity to listen to local business people and discuss the Administration's trade policies. Local U.S. Commercial Service Office Director Heather Ranck and North Dakota Commerce Commissioner Jay Schuler spoke with Secretary Ross about the local exporting landscape, with specific discussion on the local US Commercial Service use in-depth market research for companies. Rep. Cramer was recently a co-sponsor of the [Promoting Rural Exports Act of 2018](#), introduced in both houses of Congress by a bipartisan North Dakota and Minnesota delegation (U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Senator John Hoeven and U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp are co-sponsors, along with Rep. Collin Peterson from Minnesota). This Act would create an international market research center, specializing in helping small-to-medium size companies from rural areas across the USA. Other aspects to the Secretary's visit included a visit to True North Steel, a luncheon with companies impacted by trade policy shifts, and a Town Hall to



(L-R) North Dakota Lieutenant Governor Brent Sanford, Representative Kevin Cramer, Secretary Wilbur Ross, and USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky.



Town Hall held at NDSCS to address trade policy.

allow for the Secretary to answer questions. Secretary Ross noted that while tariffs are hard on farmers and agricultural communities, the long-term gain will be worth the short-term struggle. Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky provided more details on the \$12 billion in aid for farmers who are unable to sell their harvests. For more information on the day's events, click [here](#) for a Fargo Forum article. For the Secretary's interview on the WZFG 1100 radio show, What's on Your Mind, click [here](#).