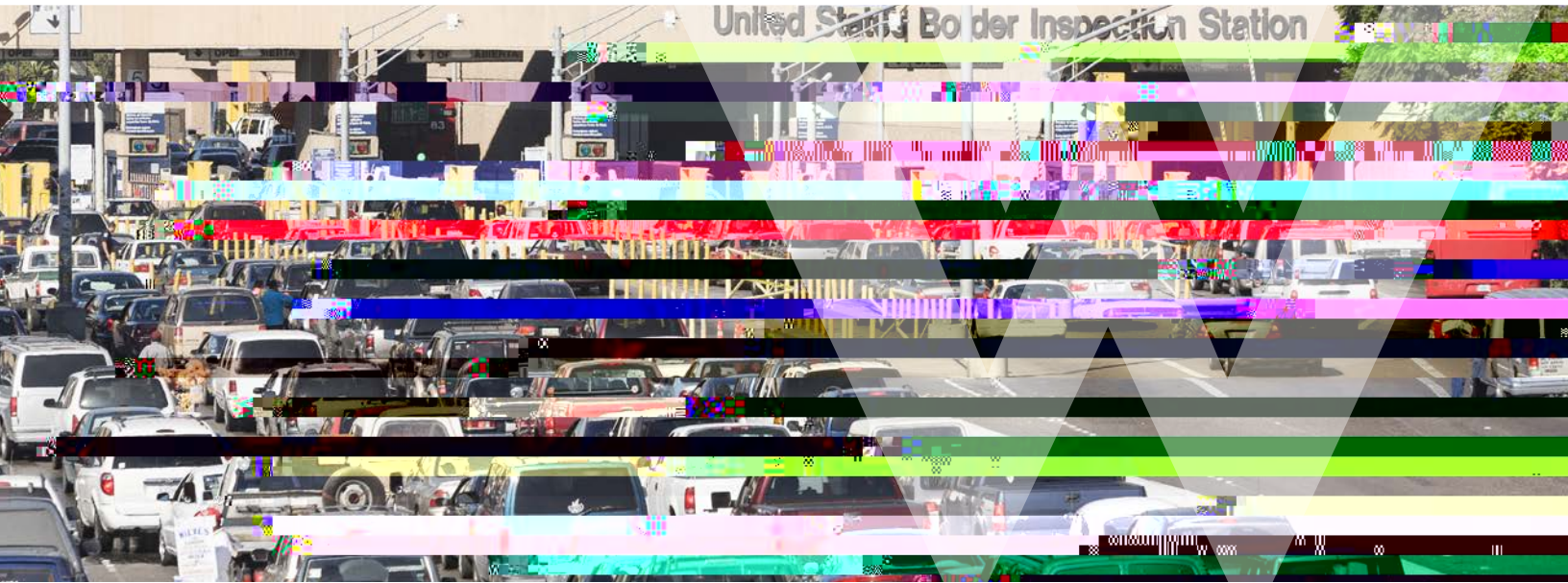


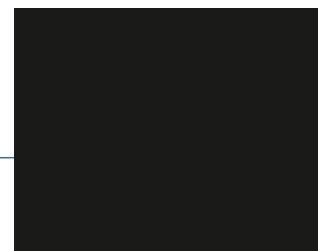
STRENGTHENING NORTH AMERICAN TIES - A Must For Competitiveness



stakeholders from the public, private, and academic sectors. They live and work in the space where the rubber meets the road and are often the source of innovation that drives national policies that help advance the competitiveness of North America.

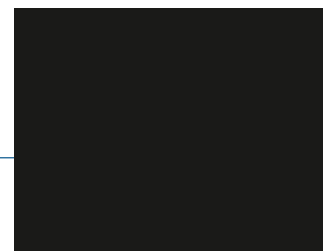
Several examples are the Cross-Border [Express](#) that enables pedestrians to access the Tijuana Airport from San Diego and vice versa, the [Trusted Traveler](#) programs that provide expedited passage for people traveling across the Canada – US border and the US-Mexico border, and the [Enhanced Driver's License](#) for land and sea travel across both US borders. These programs, which originated at the regional scale and were advocated by sub-national entities, help to integrate the people and goods of North America by thinning the border, enabling greater business and manufacturing efficiencies while also improving our quality of life and meeting security priorities.

Despite their obvious contributions to North



A strong North America requires alignment wherever possible in our border policies and management. A thicker border not only inhibits competitiveness by erecting barriers, but also dampens the soft diplomacy that is a by-product of an efficient border. The three countries could use the work agenda created at the 2021 North American Leaders Summit (NALS) and the preparations for the next NALS to address the inconsistencies such as those flagged above.

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we face a pivotal moment for re-energizing our political focus and investment in North America. We need to mend the ties that bind us and leapfrog our border innovations cooperatively. Now is the time to fully achieve the concept of 'cleared once, accepted twice



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region of the Canada – U.S. border. In addition to working with faculty and students, she collaborates with the private sector and government agencies to advance policy solutions and promote cross-border collaboration. Laurie participates in numerous working groups that are actively engaged in the U.S. – Canada relationship, is a Global Fellow with the Woodrow Wilson Center and a Fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

