



**ADVANCING A NEW GENERATION OF ECONOMIC  
ZONES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND  
THE FREE ZONES OF THE FUTURE:**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PERSPECTIVE**

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES (NAFTZ)

- At the National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones, we connect global businesses with local communities through the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) Program. The National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones is the collective voice of the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones Program.
- Our membership of over 700—which is comprised of public entities, public and private companies and individuals—works together to foster business growth, economic development, and U.S. employment.
- Principal educator and the leader in demonstrating the program's value and role in the changing environment of international trade.

# U.S. FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES

- Congress created the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) program in 1934 as an economic development tool during the Great Depression to increase employment.
- Subsequent changes have made it more beneficial and easier to apply for since then.
- The program is administered by the US Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and Homeland Security.

# U.S. FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES

- In general, Special Economic Zones are broader in scope than the foreign-trade zone program we have in the United States.
- Changes in program has regulatory and statutory protocols.
- Joint administration of program requires coordination with the governing authorities.

# OPPORTUNITIES

- Operating within regulatory framework
- Recognized best practice for importing
- Management of inventory, facilitation of movement of goods
- Export promotion

# FUTURE VISION

- eCommerce – Fulfillment within our borders
- Tariff management
- Trade agreement parity
- Global cooperation

# QUESTIONS?

Melissa Irmén  
Sr. Vice President  
ISCM Incorporated  
[Melissa.Irmen@ISCM.co](mailto:Melissa.Irmen@ISCM.co)

Jeff Tafel  
President  
NAFTZ  
[JTafel@NAFTZ.org](mailto:JTafel@NAFTZ.org)