



Economic Development in Indian Country

Andrew Bowers | January 29, 2019



Key Terms

- Federally Recognized Tribe
- Tribal Trust Land
- Indian Country
- Tribal Sovereignty



Statistics

- 573 federally recognized tribes
- 3.08 million Native Americans
 - Approximately 1% of US Population
- 56.2 million acres of Federal Trust Land
 - Approximately 2% of the United States Land base



Opportunities

- **Available Workforce**
 - Centralized Workforce
 - Tribes can fund workforce training
 - Federal Funding available
- **Access to Transportation**
 - 90 Reservations are intersected by railways.
 - 108 are located within five miles of an interstate highway.
 - Some Reservations are located on or near deep-water seaports.



Opportunities

- **Tax Incentives**
 - Federal Taxes
 - No State or Local Property Taxes.
 - No State or Local Sales Taxes.
 - Wage Tax Credits
 - New Market Tax Credits.
- **Regulatory Incentives**
 - Projects on Reservations do not require State or County approvals.



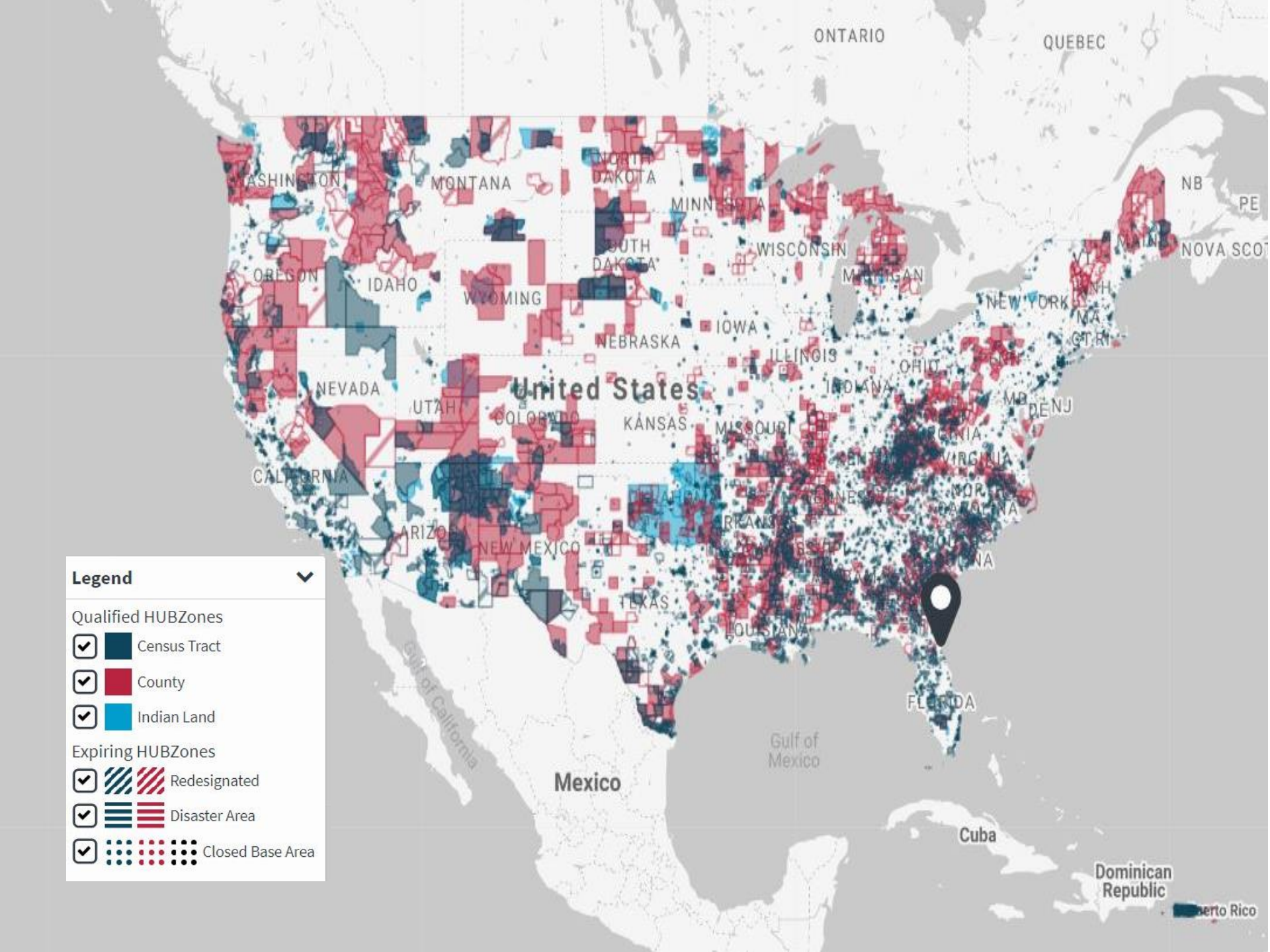
Opportunities

- **Contracting Preferences**

- Department of Defense Incentive Program
- Tribes are eligible for Minority Business Enterprise and Tribal 8(a) designation.

- **Strategic Locations**

- Some Tribes are located within Free Trade Zones.
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Iron Horse Industrial Park
- Every Reservation is located within a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Zone.





Opportunities

- Energy & Minerals



Examples of Success

- **Moapa Band of Paiutes**
 - Moapa, Nevada
 - 356 members
 - 71,954 acres
 - Alternative Energy, Gaming
- **Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**
 - Choctaw, Mississippi
 - 10,000 Members
 - 35,000 acres
 - Government Contracts, Plastics, , Gaming



Examples of Success

- Chickasaw Nation
- Ada, Oklahoma
- 49,000 Tribal Members
- Gaming, Defense Services, Network Services
- Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc. (CNI)
- [Chickasaw Nation Partners in Oklahoma Economy](#)



Examples of Success

- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Hollywood, Florida
- 4,100 members
- Gaming, Hotels, Cattle, Rock Mining, Citrus, Petroleum
- 2007 Acquired Hard Rock International

Entrance
SEMINOLE INDIAN VILLAGE



ALLIGATOR WRESTLING

mouth MOCCASINS

ALLIGATORS WILD

Alligator
Wrestling
HOURLY







Questions to Ask

1. What cultural traditions and values are important to your tribe as it relates to economic development?



Questions to Ask

2. How is your reservation property held in trust? Do you have allotted lands or does your reservation belong to the tribe as a whole?



Questions to Ask

3. What is your lease process? Who oversees leases and handles approvals?



Questions to Ask

4. How long does the process typically take?



Questions to Ask

5. How long are your leases?



Questions to Ask

6. What taxes and/or exemptions apply to my business on your Reservation?



Questions to Ask

7. Do you own your own utilities? If so, what are their rates?



Questions to Ask

8. How are disputes handled?