



Identifying Economic Priorities in Indian Country

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Themes from Secretary Zinke

- Sovereignty
- Self-Determination
- Self-Governance
- Respect
- Economic Freedom and Empowerment
- Reduced Regulatory Burden



“Sovereignty has to mean something”





1. Economic Development

- How can we best help tribes develop self-sustaining economies that promote jobs, wealth, prosperity and independence for all?
- When Indian Country prospers, the surrounding states also prosper
- Energy development critical to this effort



2. Tribal Empowerment

- How can we better empower tribal leaders?
- How can we best return economic sovereignty to tribes?



3. Human Capital Development

- What is the best way to invest in Native people?
- Not just college education, but also skilled trades
- States are better off when Indian Country's workforce is better educated and better trained
- Long-term strategy for promoting tribal economic growth and tribal self-governance simultaneously



ANPRM Comments from Indian Country (feedback received by DOI)

- Old statute and outdated regulations
- Original legislative intent of the founding fathers excluded states
- Federal common law cases breached that exclusivity
- Federal and state regulations compounded the problem
- Indian Country suggested that we:
 - Give tribes the exclusive ability to tax and regulate trade and commerce that occurs on trust or restricted fee land (“Indian Lands”)
 - Allow tribes to opt-out of oppressive federal regulatory oversight of some or all of their Indian Lands
 - Replace an uncertain taxation system with a jurisdiction based system, just like states



Working Together with Indian Country

- Dear Tribal Leader Letter
- We need to get information on projects that are not happening that would happen in a new regulatory environment
 - Capital Expenditures
 - Annual Revenues
 - Jobs
 - Economic Impact Studies
 - Treaty Obligations



We Need Help from Indian Country

That's what we're thinking ...

What do y'all think?