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# The Developing Gig Economy in Indian Country

**Maranda S. Compton**

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# Nulelìntàm èli paèkw

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## ■ Thank you:

- Department of Energy – Office of Indian Energy
  - Director Kevin Frost
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Tribal Elected Officials and Leaders

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## ■ Maranda Compton

- Indian Law Expert
- Advocate for Tribes and Non-Tribal Entities Working in and near Indian Country
- Lenape



# The Lenape



# The Lenape



ARTICLES  
OF  
AGREEMENT AND CONFEDERATION,  
BETWEEN THE  
United States of North America  
AND THE  
DELAWARE NATION.

*ARTICLES of AGREEMENT and CONFEDERATION, made and entered into by Andrew and Thomas Lewis, Esquires, Commissioners for, and in Behalf of the United States of North-America of the one Part, and Capt. White Eyes, Capt. John Kill Buck, junior, and Capt. Pipe, Deputies and Chief Men of the Delaware Nation of the other Part.*

ARTICLE I.

THAT all offences or acts of hostilities by one, or either of the contracting parties against the other, be mutually forgiven, and buried in the depth of oblivion, never more to be had in remembrance. All offences mutually forgiven.

ARTICLE II.

That a perpetual peace and friendship shall from henceforth take place, and subsist between the contracting parties aforesaid, through all succeeding generations: and if either of the parties are engaged in a just and necessary war with any other nation or nations, that then each shall assist the other in due proportion to their abilities, till their enemies are brought to reasonable terms of accommodation: and that if either of them shall discover any hostile designs forming against the other, they

# Treaty of Fort Pitt (1778)

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## ARTICLE VI.

United States guarantee to them all territorial rights as bounded by former treaties.

Whereas the enemies of the United States have endeavored, by every artifice in their power, to possess the Indians in general with an opinion, that it is the design of the States aforesaid, to extirpate the Indians and take possession of their country: to obviate such false suggestion, the United States do engage to guarantee to the aforesaid nation of Delawares, and their heirs, all their territorial rights in the fullest and most ample manner, as it hath been bounded by former treaties, as long as they the said Delaware nation shall abide by, and hold fast the chain

of friendship now entered into. And it is further agreed on between the contracting parties should it for the future be found conducive for the mutual interest of both parties to invite any other tribes who have been friends to the interest of the United States, to join the present confederation, and to form a state whereof the Delaware nation shall be the head, and have a representation in Congress: Provided, nothing contained in this article to be considered as conclusive until it meets with the approbation of Congress. And it is also the intent and meaning of this article, that no protection or countenance shall be afforded to any who are at present our enemies, by which they might escape the punishment they deserve.

To have a representation in Congress on certain conditions.

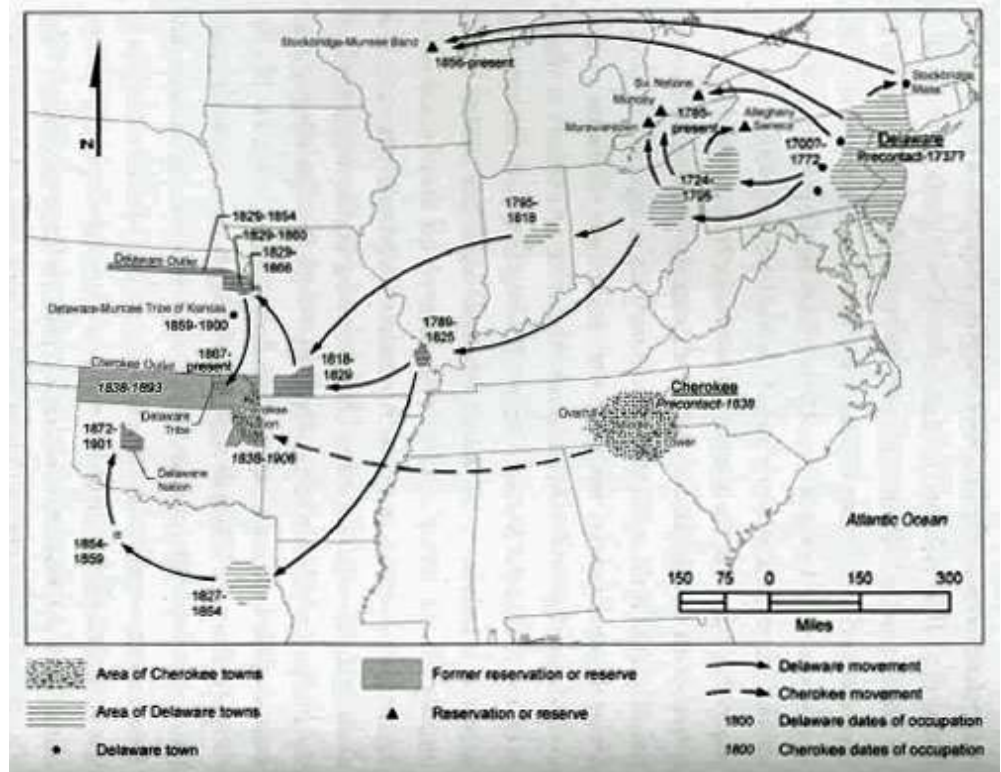
In witness whereof, the parties have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals, at Fort Pitt, September seventeenth, anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight.

Andrew Lewis,	[L. S.]
Thomas Lewis,	[L. S.]
White Eyes, his x mark,	[L. S.]
The Pipe, his x mark,	[L. S.]
John Kill Buck, his x mark,	[L. S.]

# Lost of Lenape Land Base



Leni Lenape Land Base 1778



# The Delaware Today

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Delaware Tribe of Indians Today  
Bartlesville, OK



# Where Could We Be?

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- Powering Self-Determination
- The Right to Determine Our Future
- Ntëlashimwi

# What is the Gig Economy?

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Economic activity involving the use of temporary or freelance workers to perform jobs typically in the service sector. – *Merriam-Webster*

Task- or project-based employment often involving connecting with clients or customers through an online platform. – *Investopedia*

# What is the Gig Economy?

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- Independent Contractor (Not an employee)
- Engagement is Task/Service/Project
- Online Platform



# Why are WE talking about the Gig Economy?

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## ■ Growing

- Estimates are between 245 and 55 million people in the U.S. are “gig workers” – which is around 27% - 35% of the U.S. workforce
- Expected to increase to 43% by 2020
- More than 50% by 2021

## ■ No one type of service or job

## ■ Platform + Skill/Ability = Commerce

## ■ Self-Determination

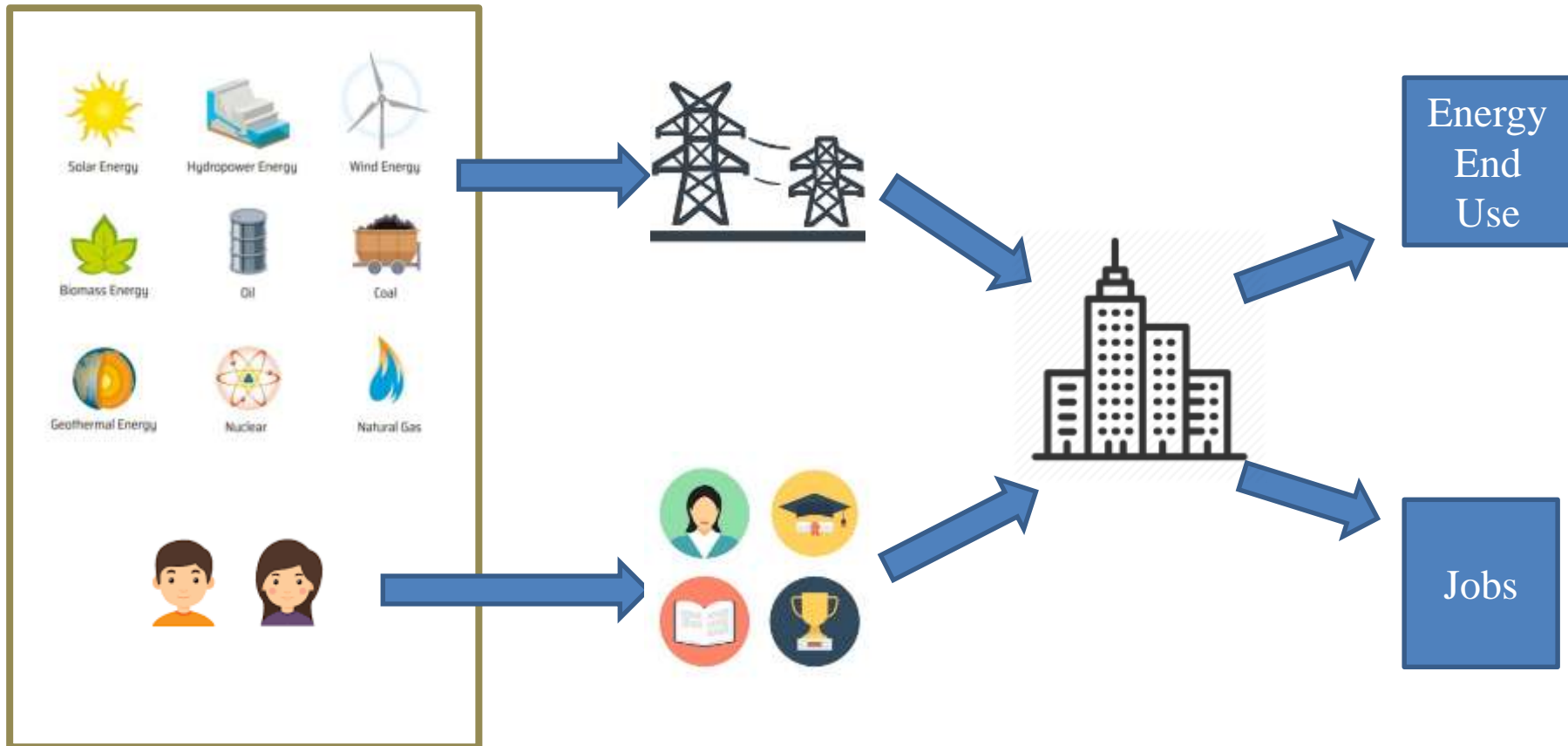
# Why the Gig Economy Works for Indian Country?

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*“Plus, you can do these jobs from almost anywhere. You could be in the North Pole as long as you have internet access. You can find work wherever you feel inspired.”*

- Work is location elastic and on demand
- Portfolio over Resume
- Platforms can be built and managed by anyone, anywhere...*all you need in Energy and some Infrastructure.*

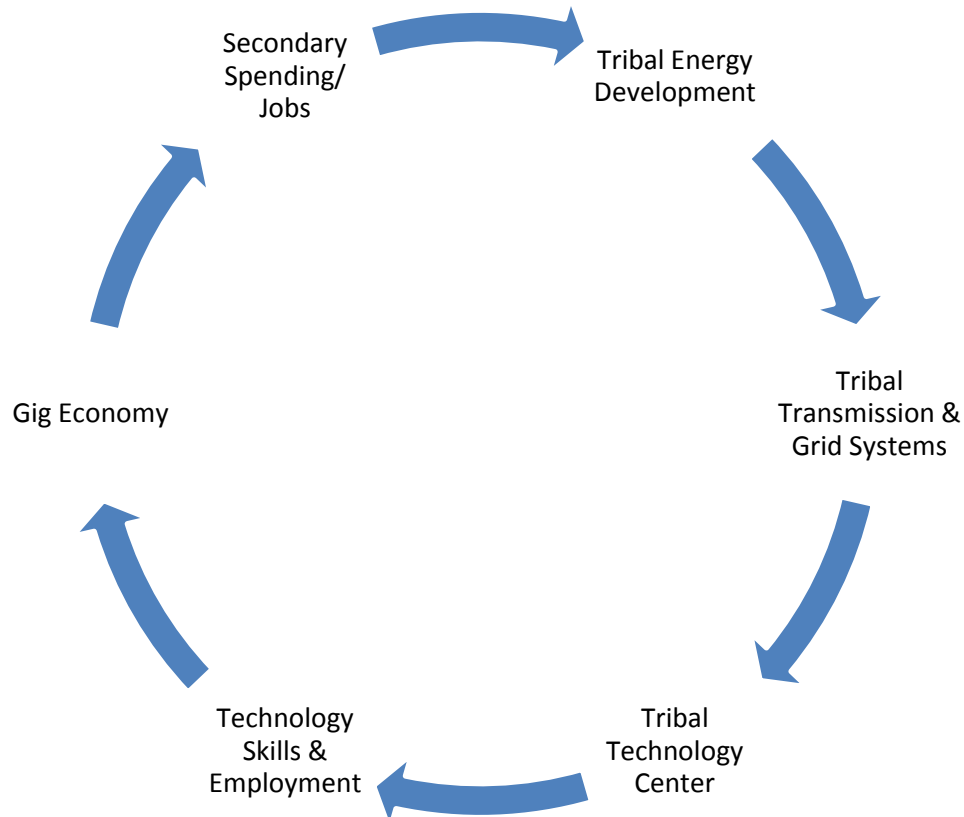
# A Shift from Extractive Economies



# Regenerative Indian Economies

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Technology Can Build Regenerative Indian Economies



# Possibilities of Technology

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Location elastic

Malleable

Developing Regulatory Framework



# Possibilities of Technology

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Location elastic

Malleable

Developing Regulatory Framework

# Technology Can Be Anywhere

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## ■ Energy + Infrastructure

- Energy not specific
  - Traditional
  - Renewable
  - Combination
- Infrastructure
  - Smart Grids
  - Data Centers

## ■ Infrastructure Needs: Investment + Technical Knowledge

- DOE Office of Indian Energy
- Tribal and private funding opportunities

# Tech Infrastructure as Building Block & Bridge

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- Tech Infrastructure is a building block
  - Coding Schools
  - Tribal Business Incubators
  - Local Businesses and Economies
  - Tech Transfer Offices
- Gig Economy can create on-reservation infrastructure with high off-reservation value

# Possibilities of Technology

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Location elastic

Malleable

Developing Regulatory Framework

# Technology is Malleable

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- Coding is the language of the future
- Coding is a language that can speak to anything
  - Building websites for Tribal businesses
  - Monitoring wild rice bed
  - Online language course
- What are we coding? What are we valuing?

# Possibilities of Technology

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Location elastic

Malleable

Developing Regulatory Framework



# Technology is New to Governments

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- Tribes can play a role in how technology is used and regulated on our lands
- Tribes can work with sister sovereigns to form regulatory and
  - Child Support Enforcement
  - Environmental monitoring
  - IP rights and Cultural Resources



# Modern Self Determination

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- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Technology

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- So What Can You Imagine?
  - What are you powering?

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For more information:

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