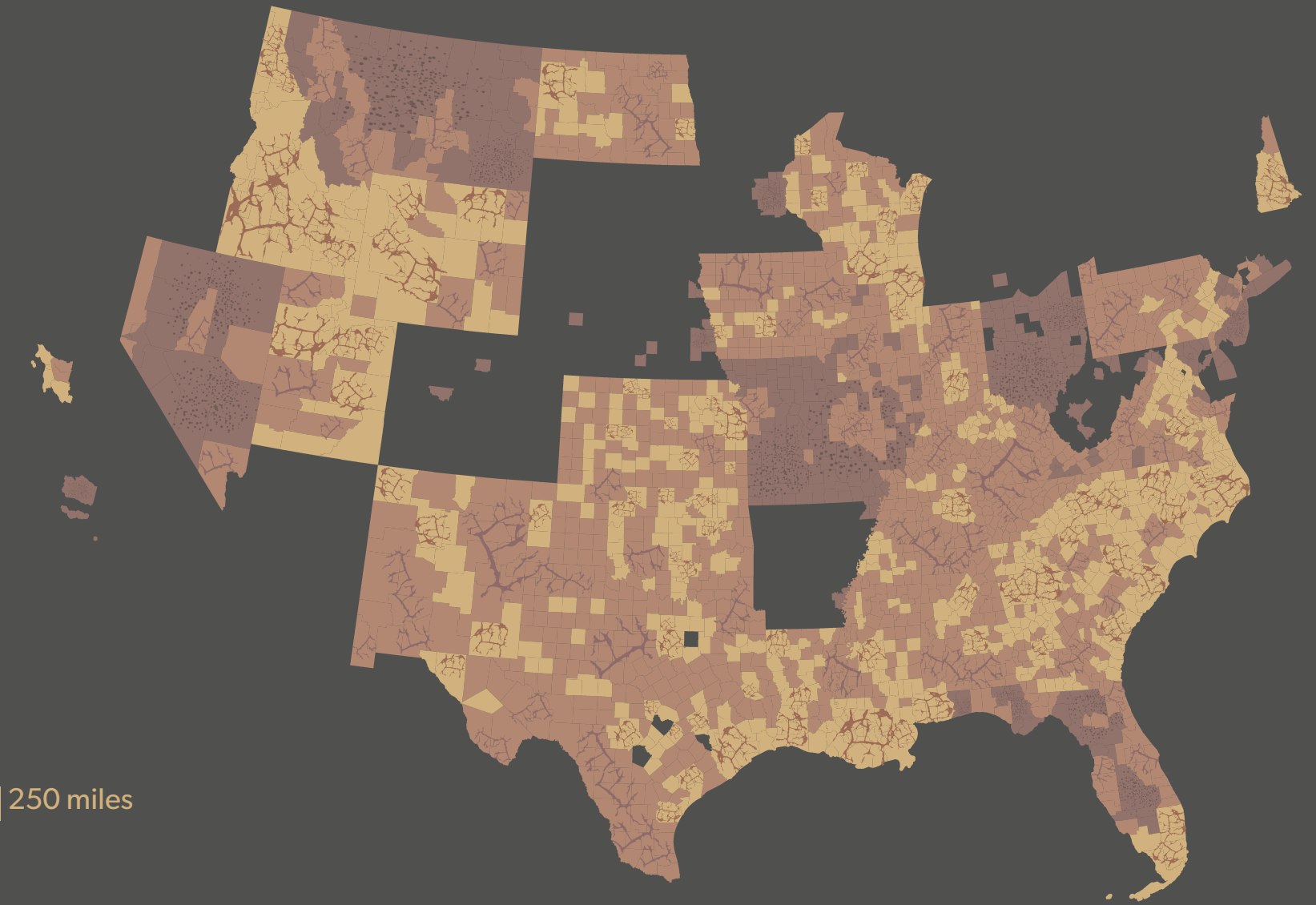
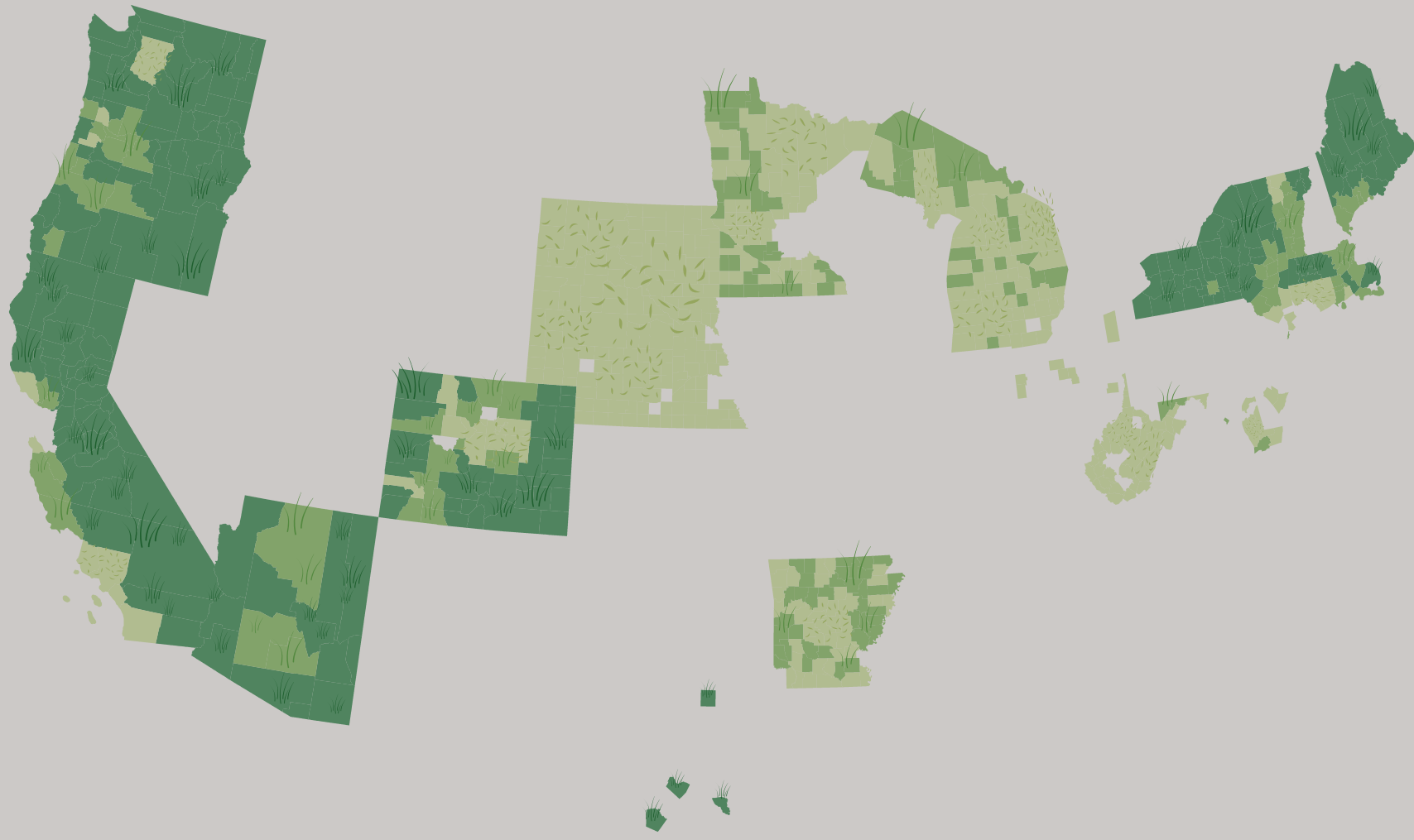





AMERICA'S BROKEN PROMISE

minimum wages compared to living wages

living wages by U.S. county in 2019



250 miles

-  **living by > \$1.50/hr** *Glenn County, CA: min: \$11.00, living \$9.03*
-  **living by \$0.75 - \$1.50/hr** *Lincoln County, MN: min: \$9.86, living \$8.79*
-  **living by \$0.01 - \$0.75/hr** *Brown County, NE: min: \$9.00, living \$8.84*

- Charlottesville, VA: min: \$7.25, living \$10.38* **> \$1.50/hr from living** 
- Polk County, TX: min: \$7.25, living \$8.57* **\$0.75 - \$1.50/hr from living** 
- Eureka County, NV: min: \$8.25, living \$8.83* **\$0.00 - \$0.75/hr from living** 

“The American dream: that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement.” Indeed, these regions are lands of opportunity for entry-level workers. Many are liberal centers, or suburban and rural counties in states where the minimum wage is lifted by a few economic powerhouse cities (e.g. California and New York). Still, this America barely suggests its original shape. The South and Northwest have vanished. Out of the thirteen colonies, for whom the first promise of opportunity was made, less than half remain.

After we have leveled forests for urban centers, connected every county with internet, and compressed time and space with high-speed transportation, roughly 70% of the United States’ land mass is still uninhabitable. The shape of this America, minus the coasts, is disturbingly full. Lagging minimum wage policies have colored in the South almost entirely. For the original emblems of the American dream—immigrants, young adults, and other unprivileged workers—a full-time job doesn’t guarantee survival, much less prosperity. This is the American dream most of us know. You have to be asleep to believe it.

*map excludes Alaska and Hawaii. Data for a household of 2, from MIT Living Wage Calculator and