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solution and implementation plan

The future of Washington State taxpayer subsidies and sports stadiums

Solution AND  
Implementation Plan

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# Introduction

Due to recent interest in acquiring a new NBA franchise, talk of construction of a new stadium has begun. However, this only adds to the growing problem of taxpayer funds being used to subsidize sports stadium construction costs nationwide. This is a heinous tradition started by ownership of sports teams seeking to forgo private sponsorship. Below are a few examples of how the construction of sports stadiums affects the community.

* Nationwide, taxpayer funds account for 78% of the total cost for new sports stadium construction costs (Keisling, Pagels). These costs come from the State increasing taxes of
* Since 2008, six states have reduced funding to their education departments and spent a combined $4 billion of over self-fulfilling city projects (Snyder).
* The city of St. Louis offered Stan Kroenke, the owner of the then St. Louis Rams, $400 million of taxpayer funds to aid in building a new stadium to incentivize the team to stay instead of relocating to Los Angeles (Povich).

As the Chairperson of the House Committee of Community Development, Housing, and Tribal Affairs, you possess the ability to influence the lawmakers of Washington State. This problem pertains to you because it affects certain aspects of the community in which it takes place. Allowing this problem to persist can lead to a decrease in community wellbeing within and around the city of Seattle.

This report outlines multiple solutions that can help protect the wellbeing of the taxpayers of Washington State.

# Proposal 1: Implement a system to promote community growth

The increase in team owners privately funding their own team stadiums is starting to become more and more prevalent. The need for a bill to require team owners and/or investors to finance the entirety of the construction costs for a new sports stadium is strong. Propose a bill that eradicates the use of public funds for sports stadiums in Washington State.

If this solution doesn’t work, then take a look at the next solution.

# proposal 2: Implement a system to create a ceiling for taxpayer aid

This proposition overlooks the creation of a spending limit the city of Seattle can impose for using public funds on large projects like stadiums. This allows the city to find assistance from the public if complete private funding isn’t an option available, while keeping the taxpayers happy.

Propose and support a bill to lawmakers that promotes the creation of the limit that can be decided on by the public in the next election. Alternatively, gauging public interest in such a bill may be necessary and found through polls.

If this solution doesn’t work for you, then try the next solution.

# Proposal 3: implement a system to ban taxpayer support

The financial decline of certain State departments is at risk of being deprioritized in favor of sports stadiums. Taxpayer subsidies could be allocated to better the education system instead of being used to fund construction costs.

A system/guide is needed that requires contractors and firms to design a stadium with features that have the community in mind. When designs are proposed, they often offer claims that they will give back to the community. These claims don’t always hold true, however. Work with local businesses to determine what they want with the construction of a new stadium in their area

If this solution doesn’t work, then address smaller issues within communities that may arise due to talk of constructing new sports stadiums.

# Conclusion

Do you care enough about the long-term effect that stadiums can have on the communities surrounding them? If so, I ask that you act now and propose a bill to your fellow lawmakers using a solution listed.

# References

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