

Stop Billionaires from Ruining Professional Sports *Co-Sponsor the Home Team Act*

At a time when our nation is becoming increasingly divided politically, millions of Democrats, Republicans and independents are united in their love of professional sports and come together to root for their favorite hometown teams and players regardless of their ideology.

Whether it is Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, Major League Soccer, or the National Hockey League, the American people don't look at their teams as just another corporation out to maximize profits.

Unlike large multi-national conglomerates, professional sports teams have been deeply woven into the fabric of communities and families throughout America for generations. Millions of Americans can remember the first time they saw their favorite players hit a home run, score a touchdown or make a last second shot to win a game at a stadium filled with fans.

Sadly, that thrilling experience is increasingly being taken away from working class kids and their families by the multi-billionaire owners of professional athletics who are becoming obscenely rich by charging outrageous prices for tickets, hot dogs, jerseys, caps, t-shirts and drinks and are making it more expensive to watch games on television or listen to them on the radio.

Even worse, these same billionaire sports oligarchs have been receiving tens of billions of dollars in corporate welfare to build incredibly expensive and extravagant new stadiums. And what happens when these sports oligarchs don't receive the massive taxpayer funding that they demand? In many cases, the oligarchs pack up the franchises they own and relocate to another state that is prepared to fork over hundreds of millions or even billions in taxpayer funding to make these oligarchs even richer. All while public schools, hospitals, childcare centers and libraries are forced to shut down or cut services because of tight budgets.

That must change.

Therefore, we invite you to become a co-sponsor of the Home Team Act to reverse these unacceptable trends.

The Home Team Act of 2026 would:

- Allow communities to purchase their own professional sports teams.
- Require the owners of professional sports to provide a 1-year notice prior to relocating or terminating a team.
- Give local communities the ability to purchase a sports team at a fair price prior to an attempt to relocate or terminate the team.

- Empower state and local governments with a right of first refusal to stop the relocation of a professional sports team to another city or state.
- Impose a \$30,000 per day penalty on the owners of professional sports who fail to comply with this law.

Giving local communities and fans the ability to purchase their own teams would begin to address the incredible greed that is undermining professional sports in America.

For example, the Green Bay Packers, owned by over 500,000 of their fans, have been able to thrive in a small city—with a population of just over 100,000—for over 100 years. Lambeau Field is the oldest continuously operating NFL stadium in America built in 1957 at a cost of less than \$1 million to build. Unlike many other NFL teams, the fan-based owners of the Packers have not demanded that taxpayers finance a new football stadium that can now cost as much as \$1 billion or more to build.

And in Germany, where professional soccer teams are primarily owned and controlled by their fans not billionaires, tickets to see games are much cheaper than a professional sporting event in the United States. A family of four in Germany can attend a professional soccer game for as little as \$110. Meanwhile, it can cost over \$2,000 for a family of four to see the Philadelphia Eagles play – over \$600 more than the median weekly income in that city.

Bottom line: Professional sports teams in America should be owned and controlled by the fans who love them, not by the multi-billionaire oligarchs who put their short-term profits ahead of the best interests of the teams they own and the well-being of their communities.

That's what the Home Team Act begins to do.