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Concerns over SB3

Senate Bill 3 (SB3) is a bill that provides significant tax credits and funding for sporting events and professional sports facilities in Missouri. While it includes a provision for disaster relief, there are serious concerns about its financial impact and constitutionality.

Key Provisions:

- **Sections 67.3000 and 67.3005:** Enhance tax credits for sporting events, increasing the annual cap to \$6 million (\$5.5 million in certain counties) and simplifying the application process.
- **Section 100.240:** Introduces the "Show-Me Sports Investment Act," allowing state funding for professional sports facilities costing over \$500 million.
- **Section 135.445:** Provides a \$5,000 refundable tax credit for taxpayers whose homesteads were damaged in a state-declared emergency.

Stated Intent: The bill aims to promote economic development through sports and provide relief for disaster victims.

Potential Financial Impact: The state could face substantial costs:

- Up to \$6 million annually in tax credits for sporting events.
- For sports facilities, the state could fund up to 50% of the project cost under the "Show-Me Sports Investment Act." For a \$500 million facility, this could mean \$250 million in state funding.

This represents a significant loss of revenue and expenditure of taxpayer money.

Questioning the Benefits: While proponents argue that sports facilities and events bring economic benefits like job creation and tourism, numerous studies show that these benefits are often exaggerated. The actual economic impact may not justify the public costs, and the benefits may not reach the average Missouri taxpayer.

ACT for Missouri's Opposition: ACT for Missouri strongly opposes giving tax breaks and subsidies to billionaire sports team owners. This is an unfair use of taxpayer money, benefiting the wealthy at the expense of ordinary citizens. Public funds should be used for public goods, not private profits.

Constitutional Concerns: Ron Calzone's Article 3 Institute argues that SCS SB3 violates the constitutional principle of equal protection. By providing special tax breaks and funding to sports

teams, the bill unfairly favors wealthy team owners over other taxpayers and businesses. This selective treatment is unjust and unconstitutional.

These concerns highlight the need for careful scrutiny of SCS SB3 to ensure that it serves the best interests of Missouri citizens.