



The Great L.A. Gambit

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By: Michael Rathbone



The battle for the L.A. market is joined! According to [NBCSanDiego](#), the Chargers are working with the Oakland Raiders. Their goal: a new stadium in the L.A. area (Carson, California, to be precise). Of course, their home cities can talk them out of it, for the right price.

It's not shocking that teams other than the Rams might want to move to Los Angeles. L.A. **is** the country's [second largest](#) media market, and with that comes a lot of TV money. However, still color me skeptical about the whole thing. I think (and [I'm not alone](#)) this is more of a ruse for the Chargers and the Raiders to extract sweetheart stadium deals from their home cities. The Chargers have been trying to get a workable proposal from San Diego for the past 14 years. They've even recently published some [remarks](#) to the San Diego stadium task force regarding what it wants in any new proposal. Needless to say, it's quite a lot.

I think the Rams' L.A. proposal is more serious. Why? Because of Stan Kroenke's silence regarding the Rams' [latest proposal](#) , or anything for that matter on what exactly he wants in order to stay in Saint Louis. The Chargers are giving San Diego an idea of what it is they're looking for in a new stadium, Mr. Kroenke isn't.

No matter the likelihood of the Chargers' or the Rams' proposals succeeding, I think that neither team should receive public subsidies. If billionaires want new stadiums, they should pay for them themselves. I don't think taxpayers should get the bill, especially since there won't be any [economic return](#) to them for doing so.

L.A. seems to be the place to go to for teams that can't get a new stadium. Will policymakers be scared into throwing more money at teams in an attempt to prevent them from leaving? Maybe, but that doesn't make it a good idea.

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Michael Rathbone was a policy researcher at the Show-Me Institute. He is a native of Saint Louis and a 2008 graduate of Saint Louis University, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in biomedical engineering.

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