

Obligation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 26270  
Birmingham, AL 35260  
205.822.0080  
jimmetroch@obligation.org

January 3, 2010

The Honorable Roger Bedford  
P.O. Box 370  
Russellville, AL 35653

Dear Senator Bedford:

First I want to thank you for your service in the Alabama Senate. It is truly admirable when a citizen like yourself serves the greater interests of the public.

As you may know, Obligation asked Auburn University for the names of public officials who accepted free 2009 Iron Bowl tickets. Your name was on that list.

You should have refused the tickets. They were offered to you only because of your office. Whether you used them, gave them away (even to a charity), or sold them, you were enriched, if only by the goodwill you generated for yourself.

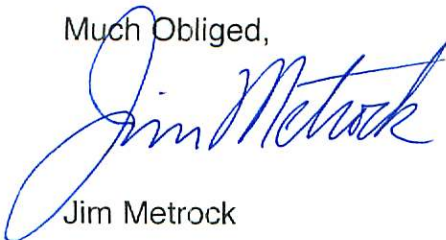
The public understands this issue and they don't like it. Editorial boards don't like it. The public will like it even less next fall when Obligation will raise the issue *before* The Game. We plan on putting ads in newspapers next October and November asking potential recipients to refuse the free tickets. We will ask those attending the game to use their cellphones to take pictures of public officials and to ask them how they obtained their tickets and if they paid for them. Fans will email us the photos and comments and we'll post them on our website. Quite frankly, the days of free Iron Bowl tickets are over, especially for elected officials.

I write you asking that you do not wait until next fall, but instead promise today that you will refuse any offer of free or discounted Iron Bowl tickets from our state schools in the future. I think the public will respect those who make this commitment early and without reluctance.

Obligation wants to publicly uplift the names of those who will make this promise. If the universities continue to have free tickets to give out, we will ask them to send them directly to charities that benefit Alabama children.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Much Obligated,



Jim Metroch