

October 8, 2010

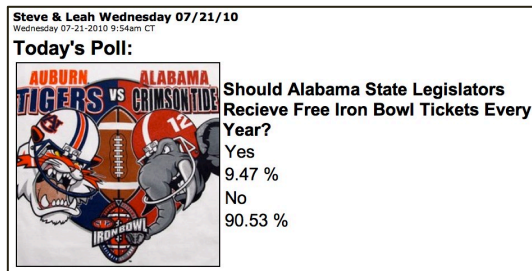
The Honorable Greg Canfield
804 Park View Circle
Vestavia Hills, AL 35242

Dear Mr. Canfield:

Last November, I like many Alabamians read that certain elected and appointed Alabama public officials have been receiving free Iron Bowl tickets and free parking passes from our state-supported universities *for years*. Traveling around the state, I have found few not angered by this practice.

After a popular Birmingham radio talk show interviewed Rep. John Rogers (“Why should I pay for something I get free?”) and me on this issue, listeners expressed their views:

I am writing you because you are either on the list of last year’s ticket recipients or you are a candidate seeking to replace a ticket recipient.



This year’s tickets will be coming from the University of Alabama. I urge you to write UA’s president Dr. Robert Witt as soon as possible and tell him to **not** send you Iron Bowl tickets or anything else that the neighbors on your street don’t also receive. If you are running for office, you might want to make this a campaign issue.

Dr. Witt’s email address is witt@pres.ua.edu. His mailing address is: The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487. Please send me a copy of your correspondence so I can share it with the public at the end of October. (You may have already said you will reject the tickets, but Dr. Witt needs to hear from you.) You deserve to be praised for refusing these tickets. You will be demonstrating a level of ethics far above the minimum required by our Ethics law. Indeed Alabama’s Ethics law, written by ticket recipients, does not consider an Iron Bowl ticket a “thing of value.” As you can imagine, that doesn’t go over well with hard working Alabamians who know better, and are fed up with a perceived culture of political entitlement.

Some officials have told me they will give “their” tickets to a charity of *their* choice, but these officials still don’t get it. They still believe they are *entitled* to free tickets because they are who they are. Why should incumbents be able to give away scarce Iron Bowl tickets, at no cost to them, thereby generating goodwill (and votes), when their opponents can’t? I hope you, as a public servant, agree that no envelope stuffed with tickets should ever have your name on it.

I am asking Alabama to give the tickets intended for your office to children charities of the University’s choosing. Charities can use the tickets to raise much-needed funds. Converting free Iron Bowl tickets for office holders into a real benefit for Alabama children will make us all winners.

Much Obligated for considering this,

Jim Metrock
President