

Ohio Citizens PAC

P.O. Box 6211 • Akron, OH 44312 • 1-866-427-9257 • 1-800-846-4632 (Fax)



Mr. Dan Gilbert
Owner
Cleveland Cavaliers
One Center Court
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-4001

January 26, 2015

VIA US MAIL

Dear Mr. Gilbert,

On behalf of the Ohio Citizens PAC and the We the People Convention, two organizations representing thousands of Liberty minded Ohioans who support free markets, capitalism, entrepreneurship, and the importance of private property, I am writing to you today to share our dissatisfaction with your ticket policies as owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

We believe that when a fan buys a ticket to an event, whether a Cavs game or other professional sporting event or a concert, that **they own the ticket they bought and have every right to sell, give away or donate that ticket however they choose**. No team, especially one that has benefited greatly from corporate handouts and millions of dollars in tax-payer funding (\$260M Sin Tax), should restrict the ownership rights inherent in the legal purchase of a ticket, including the ability of fans to resell a ticket on the platform they choose and for the price they set. Why are you stealing the property rights, and money, of college and high school students, hard working blue collar workers and minorities who pay the taxes that support your team?

Under the terms and conditions of your ticket policy, fans are prevented from selling tickets on any resell platform other than FlashSeats. If fans unknowingly break this rule they are threatened with ticket forfeiture including the loss of season tickets. Flashseats is the official resale site of Veritix, the ticket company you own and promote using the money from ticket sales. Forcing fans to use your resale platform allows you to limit competition from other resellers such as StubHub or Vivid Seats, essentially giving you monopoly control of the secondary market. This raises prices and denies the least among us the opportunity to see their hometown team play for a price they can afford. While we as citizens may have granted you a monopoly on your team franchise, that monopoly does not extend to your other businesses and in our opinion is illegal.

As supporters of capitalism, we don't have a quarrel with any business making an honest buck. However, it takes a warped sense of fairness to, on one hand, ask tax payers for millions of their hard earned money to support your businesses, only to depriving those same taxpayers the opportunity to make a buck or save a buck by being able to sell tickets, they have purchased and rightfully own, in a fair and open market for whatever price they can get. Free markets and property rights are at the core of American capitalism. Your policies give capitalism a bad name and need to be reversed.

It is with this in mind that we ask you to reconsider your business model. Otherwise, we will begin organizing petition campaigns throughout Ohio to bring attention to your current unethical practices. We will then take those petitions to our Congressional delegation as well as Attorney General Mike DeWine to investigate the antitrust implications and remedies available to fans via state and federal law.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Zawistowski".

Thomas R. Zawistowski
President
Ohio Citizens PAC
TomZ@OhioCitizensPAC.org