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Subject: For internal staff update

USC Season Football Tickets

Recall, the S.C. Ethics Commission issued an opinion holding that USC providing season football tickets and suite access to the governor's office (not the governor individually) is not a violation of the ethics act, provided that state-related uses for the tickets take priority over the personal use by individual public officials, public employees, and others. During the meeting to deliberate and vote on this issue, one Commissioner voiced his frustration with Ethic's Commission staff for not providing the materials and proposed opinion in time for Commissioners to thoughtfully consider and research the issue prior to the meeting. Ultimately, he voted in favor of the opinion but reserved his right to revisit the issue after time to reflect. This Commissioner now has requested to put the item back on the agenda for March 16th. It is our understanding that he wishes to amend the opinion to tighten the "provided clause" to allow only for use by the state officials for economic development or other state-related purposes and no personal use. It is Ethics Commission staff opinion that other Commissioners are reluctant to amend the opinion. Butch and I will appear on March 16th for the meeting.

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