

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 8, 2011

The Honorable Jon Leibowitz  
Chairman  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Leibowitz:

We write to bring to your attention a recent article from the *Providence Journal* outlining concerns about certain online ticket brokers. According to the article, which we have attached, these brokers apparently sell tickets on websites whose names mimic those of real venues and that have photographs of the venues, causing some consumers to believe that they are buying tickets first-hand from the venue itself. As a result, some consumers may have paid excessive ticket prices with the added cost going to unscrupulous online brokers, not to the performance venue or to performers.

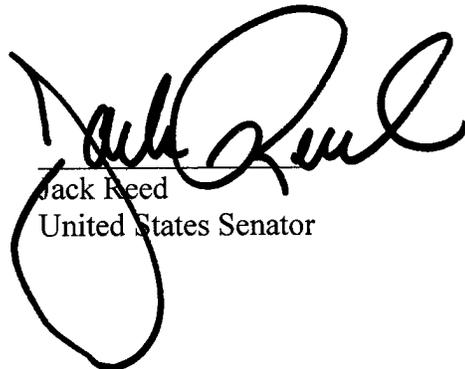
You previously considered the prevalence of abuse in the online ticket resale market during your investigation of Ticketmaster and related entities. When that investigation ended with a settlement, you said that “[b]uying tickets should not be a game of chance.” A similar game of chance appears to be playing out now with respect to certain ticket brokers in our home state and likely elsewhere. Considering that these are tough economic times, particularly in Rhode Island, every dollar that a consumer is able to spend counts and consumers must have a sense of confidence in their purchases. We therefore request that the Federal Trade Commission investigate these practices and take appropriate actions to protect consumers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator