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Scenic Quote of the Month

"Pollution is not limited to the air we breathe and the water we drink; it can equally offend the eye and ear."

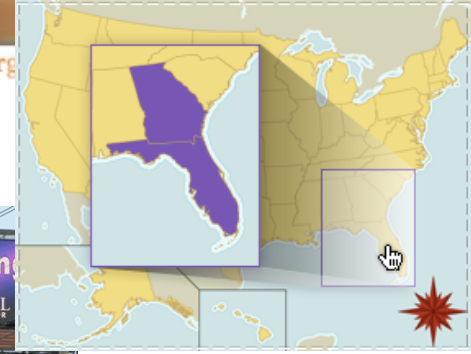
Scenic America's digital billboard questionnaire - has a new electronic sign gone up near you?

Digital billboards are popping up all across the country. Have you seen one go up near you? If you have, we'd like to hear from you. We're interested in your opinion and in finding out how the sign(s) affects your commute or your neighborhood. If you've seen new digital billboard go up in your area, please take a moment to complete our digital billboard questionnaire.

[Click here for the questionnaire.](#)



Get Local



It's a "no go" for Grologo...for now

In December we broke [this story](#) about a company called Grologo seeking permission to place "vegetative" billboards on the public right of way on federal Interstate and federal-aid highways.



Simulated image of a proposed vegetative billboard in Texas several years ago.

Sen. Harry Reid had reportedly sneaked an amendment into the technical corrections bill for SAFETEA-LU, the massive federal highway bill that passed over two years ago, that would have given Grologo what it has spent hundreds of thousands of lobbying dollars to get: access to the federal right-of-way for its "vegetative" billboards.

Now, Scenic America has learned that the bill is going forward **without** the Grologo amendment attached.

As always when big money and politics are involved, nothing is ever final and it's possible Grologo may surface again at some point. Rest assured Scenic America will stay alert and vigilant and continue to oppose efforts to commercialize the federal right of way.

Paper: LA's billboard blight linked to massive city hall corruption, ineptitude

LA WEEKLY In what could be the most significant investigation ever into connections between the billboard industry and local governments, *LA Weekly* has published [this groundbreaking article](#) linking Los Angeles' uncontrolled billboard blight to systemic ineptitude and blatant corruption in city hall.

~ Warren Burger, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Numerous Scenic America representatives are quoted throughout the extensive article, including Scenic America President Kevin Fry, Margaret Lloyd of Scenic Texas, Bill Brinton of Citizens for a Scenic Florida, and Mary Tracy of SCRUB.



Just a sampling of LA's thousands of billboards. Photo by Kevin Fry.

Scenic Trivia Question

Q: In 1989, what newspaper published a series of articles investigating massive tax evasion practices by the billboard industry?

A: On January 22-24, 1989, the Raleigh News & Observer published a series of investigative articles which concluded that billboard companies had escaped paying property taxes on thousands of billboards in North Carolina, while at the same time demanding huge sums of money when local governments sought to remove them. During their research, the N & O observed a similar pattern of tax evasion by outdoor advertising companies around the country.

The levels of incompetence, inaction, and outright corruption in city government uncovered by reporter Christine Pelisek will make your jaw drop. The billboard industry has run roughshod over Los Angelenos by filling the coffers of some of their elected officials and scaring the wits out of others with endless litigation.

While the situation in Los Angeles is dire, there is hope that investigative pieces like this combined with the efforts of engaged citizens can start to reverse the damage caused by years of institutionalized political corruption in LA and other U.S. cities.

Lawmaker works to ban LED signs on New Hampshire's roads

Scenic America board member and New Hampshire State Senator [Martha Fuller Clark](#) has introduced a bill in that state's legislature that seeks to prohibit digital billboards from proliferating on the Granite State's highways.



Clark, daughter of former Maine state representative and Scenic America co-founder Marion Fuller Brown, sponsored the bill in an effort to thwart the spread of the LED signs that are popping up on roads and in communities all across the country.

Kevin Fry, president of Scenic America, traveled to Concord to testify in favor of the bill. He spoke before the House Committee on Public Works and Highways, noting that Scenic America's opposition to digital billboards is rooted in three fundamental areas of concern: driver safety, environmental consequences, and aesthetic considerations.

Tell a Friend

[Click here to tell your friends and family about Scenic Overlook and spread the word about Scenic America.](#)

[Click here](#) to read Fry's presentation in its entirety (PDF).

Scenic America board member receives presidential volunteerism award

Our congratulations go out to Scenic America board member Judith Boggess for [recently receiving](#) a prestigious and well-deserved presidential volunteerism award.

Make a donation

Your tax-deductible donation helps us to provide information, support, and guidance to communities, planners, and policy makers that recognize...

Boggess, of Lake Forest, Illinois, received the President's Volunteer Service Award from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson in Washington, D.C., in front of nearly 300 Garden Club of America members.



Photo by Laura Weisman/News-Sun

Change is Inevitable, Ugliness is Not!

Judy got involved with her local garden club in the 1980s and served as chairwoman of the Garden Club of America's National Conservation Committee and National Affairs and Legislation Committee in the early 1990s. She has served on Scenic America's board of directors since 2005.



Journey Through Hallowed Ground closer to National Heritage Area status

On April 10, 2008, the United States Senate passed legislation to designate the [Journey Through Hallowed Ground](#) (JTHG) a National Heritage Area. This act of Congress will recognize the unparalleled cultural, historic and scenic resources within the entire JTHG corridor.

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The JTHG Partnership is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising national awareness of the unparalleled history in the region, which generally follows the Old Carolina Road (Rt. 15/231) from Gettysburg, PA to Monticello in Virginia. Scenic America is a founding partner and continued supporter of the JTHG.

The legislation, S. 2739, passed the Senate by a vote of 91 to 4 and now awaits final approval by the House of Representatives.

Scenic Knoxville debuts TV spot

Newly-formed [Scenic Knoxville](#) was fortunate enough to have a local professional videographer donate his services to create a 30-second television ad that sheds light on a proposal to allow digital billboards in the city.

The spot has aired a few times during off-peak hours, but the group is working to raise funds to have it aired during the more watched, and more expensive, prime time hours and especially during local newscasts.



[Click here to watch the video.](#)

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