



## Three bills to benefit scenic beauty introduced by new America the Beautiful Caucus

A coalition of scenic beauty advocates in Congress has formed the bipartisan America the Beautiful Caucus, co-chaired by Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) and Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX).



Already, three bills have been introduced by Caucus Members which would improve the country's scenic environment and benefit economies in small towns and rural areas:

H.R. 5156, the "Protect Public Trees Act of 2018," would prohibit the cutting, destruction and removal of trees for purposes of increasing billboard visibility on federally funded roads.

H.R. 5158 would reopen nominations to the National Scenic Byways Program, a special designation thus far bestowed on 150 roads around the country but which has been dormant since 2012.

H.R. 5471, the "American Gateway Communities Economic Development and Conservation Act," would fund improvements to scenic resources and visitor experiences in municipalities located within 5 miles of a public entrance to any of the 417 units of the National Park Service.

[Click here](#) to learn more about these bills and to ask your Representative to support them!

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## Citizen action leads to removal of overhead wires in Charleston

When John Cay moved to Charleston, S.C. with his bride Billings about a dozen years ago, one of the first things he noticed were the overhead power lines running past their house on

King Street. Cay, a native of Savannah, Ga., couldn't believe what he was seeing.

"Right in the heart of the historic district were these overhead utility lines," Cay said, marring views of many architecturally significant homes and the overall streetscape.



Cay was incredulous that overhead lines and poles would still be intruding on viewscapes in a city whose beauty and charm attract millions of visitors annually, composing a critical part of the area's economy.

[Click here](#) to learn how Cay organized with his neighbors to get these overhead wires put underground in their neighborhood.

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## Belgian study adds to evidence on driver distraction near digital billboards

A new study from Belgium adds to the growing body of evidence that roadside digital billboards distract motorists from the task of driving.

The study by the Flanders Agency for Roads and Traffic sought to determine whether the glance behavior of road users was influenced by digital advertising signs, whether such signs lead to changes

in driving behavior and whether there were notable effects on road safety as a result.



[Click here](#) to read more and download the study.

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## Scenic affiliates share their inspirational origin stories

This spring Scenic America intern Makenna Sievertson interviewed a half-dozen Scenic affiliates from around the country to better understand their backgrounds, how they came into the scenic conservation movement, and what their current and future plans are. We hope you will find these in-depth profiles to be enjoyable, intriguing and inspiring!

Click a link to learn more about these accomplished individuals and their organizations:

- [Joyce Feld](#), Scenic Knoxville

- [Ralph Becker](#), Scenic Utah
- [Mark Mayer](#), Scenic Arizona
- [Patrick Frank](#), Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight
- [Lori Wray](#), Scenic Nevada
- [Pamela Wilson](#), Scenic San Diego

Thank you to these Scenic affiliates for sharing their inspiring stories!

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