

March 25, 2010

Honorable Steven L. Beshear
Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

Subject: Scenic Kentucky Opposition to HB 536

Dear Governor Steven L. Beshear,

This is to express Scenic Kentucky's opposition to a pending piece of legislation that may come to your desk. The legislation in question is HB 536. Passage of this bill would allow non-commercial billboards to be erected without requiring a permit from the transportation offices of the Commonwealth. In addition, the equivalent of SB 133 may be attached to this bill. SB 133 would allow for clear cutting of a view area in the public right-of-way so that a billboard will be better seen from the roadway.

As you are aware, Kentucky has signed two agreements that it will comply with both the Bonus Act and the Highway Beautification Act. Passage of HB 536 alone or with any form of SB 133 attached will put the Commonwealth in jeopardy of losing \$40 to \$42 million federal road funds per year.

I should also mention that passage of HB 536 could greatly impact on the scenic beauty of Kentucky's highways and create many problems of enforcing compliance with regulations at a time of budget shortfalls and staff reductions.

I am aware that you have expressed the same concerns that Scenic Kentucky has about HB 536 to Paul Whitty (our Vice President) and have stated that "you will not let this legislation go into effect". We are very much appreciative your position and support your effort concerning a probable veto of this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. David Grissom
President
Scenic Kentucky