Dear Friends of Scenic Kentucky,

We need your support in Scenic Kentucky’s continuing effort to retain and enhance the beauty of our community and the Commonwealth. Recent events are prime examples of this ongoing concern.

Example #1 -- Three LED (digital) billboards in or near downtown Louisville along I-65 have been allowed to stand for over four years in violation of Louisville Metro’s Codes and Regulations. Scenic Kentucky is on record opposing these violations. The billboard company used the renewal of maintenance permits to surreptitiously convert three static billboards to multiple message LED billboards. When cited for violation of city regulations, they sued Louisville Metro. With no action for 4 years, the billboards continue to flash distracting messages to Interstate 65. Scenic Kentucky has asked Louisville Metro and the Jefferson County Attorney’s Office to get these illegal signs reversed to their static situation or turned off until there is a final determination.

Example #2 -- The same billboard company removed 310 trees and additional brush along I-64 in the Butchertown/Clifton area to improve the visibility of 10 static billboards. These “select clearing” permits were approved under the Ky. Transportation Cabinet’s new “Encroachment Permit” procedure. The result is the defoliation of roadway and removal of the visual and sound barriers for the adjacent residences. Approvals are given at the Regional Offices. Scenic Kentucky is very interested in developing a monitoring procedure so that the local public has input before “select clearing/devastation” happens.

We are also concerned for possible static billboard conversions to LED billboards. The Ky. Transportation Cabinet’s revised Administrative Regulations now allows this. We need to work with local city and county governments to monitor and have input concerning these applications.

Finally, Scenic Kentucky must always be aware of what is going on in Frankfort during the annual Kentucky (winter) Legislative Session. We will be working with the Kentucky Conservation Committee (KCC) to monitor and oppose any legislative proposals in the 2019 Regular (long) Session that will endanger the beauty of the Commonwealth through the blight of billboards – static or LED.

Our mission is “to preserve, protect, and enhance the scenic and aesthetic character of Kentucky’s communities and roadways”. We very much appreciate your past financial support. We look forward, with your financial support, to addressing the serious concerns noted above. We need your help.

Sincerely,

Marlene Grissom, President
Scenic Kentucky