



## THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

### POSITION PAPER

*The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulation of responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results*

### **GCA SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION**

The Garden Club of America has been dedicated to preserving and enhancing the scenic character of our communities and countryside since 1914 when the Committee on Beautifying Settlements and Highways was formed. “The restoration, improvement and protection of the environment through programs and action,” is included in the mission statement of GCA.

We view transportation and billboard legislation as significant determinants of the quality of our air, water, plants, and scenery.

Therefore, The Garden Club of America favors legislation that:

- Supports the Clean Air Act, including incentives for cleaner fuel and reductions in auto emissions.
- Assures public involvement and sound transportation planning.
- Provides funding for the support and further development of public transportation.
- Continues funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, which allows states and communities to improve air quality by reducing congestion and emissions.
- Encourages biodiversity in roadside plantings, particularly by the use of native plants and eradication of invasives and through the cooperation of federal, state and local highway departments.
- Values protection of historic, cultural and natural assets, and encourages acquisition of easements to protect scenic and historic sites.
- Encourages creation and maintenance of suitable scenic byways.
- Emphasizes the protection of the natural landscape rather than billboard visibility.
- Addresses the visual, safety, and environmental hazards of electronic billboards.
- Encourages the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to pedestrian and bicycle trails where appropriate.
- Preserves the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process involving federal highway projects.

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*The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.*