

From: [Priya Thakkar](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: testimony opposing expansion
Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026 10:59:33 AM

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Dear Benton County Commissioners,

I am writing in reference to:

Janet Ohmann's testimony: (BC04_T0780-Jan 27, 2026-Ohmann Janet)

Faye Yoshihara's testimony: (BC04_T0778-Jan 17, 2026-Yoshihara, Faye)

My name is Priya Thakkar, I reside at 38987 Arena Rd., Corvallis, OR 97330.

As I sat down to write this testimony this morning, I first needed to file a DEQ complaint because the smell from the dump on this beautiful but foggy Saturday morning is so strong that I was unable to do most of my morning chores, including feeding and spending time with our goats and alpaca, throwing the ball for our dogs, Buddy and Jovie, and beginning to prep our garden for early spring planting (Peas by President's Day!). I write all of this so that you can get an idea of the day to day activities that are significantly disrupted by the stench from the landfill that interfere with the uses of nearby property and character of the area. We moved to this area almost 10 years ago for access to outdoor space, the ability to farm, care for livestock, and raise our children with access to the outdoors. We have found ourselves frequently assaulted by the smells from the dump, which we have reported to the DEQ, the Planning Commission in 2021 and 2025, and then to all of you this past fall. The P.E.N. from the DEQ has suddenly given new legitimacy to my complaints and the complaints of my fellow community members. The P.E.N. also highlighted not only the significant odor pollution that Republic has failed to mitigate but also the health risks to our community that accompany the odor. I hope that you, as our elected officials, will take this seriously and prioritize the health and well-being of our community.

I have filed DEQ odor complaints on a semiregular basis since I learned of the complaint process in 2021. I would estimate 4 complaints a year. The DEQ complaint process is time consuming and difficult to do from a mobile device. I only file complaints when I have time and access to a laptop to complete the process, which is not often. I smell the dump much more frequently—in the winter at least once a week, more frequently on days with fog or stagnant air. I drive by the landfill at least 4 times a week and can smell the landfill EVERY time I drive by. The smell is significant and disgusting. It causes nausea and headaches for myself and my children.

The response that I receive from DEQ each time I file a complaint is that Republic "investigated" the issue, making note of the wind direction, which means little when there is a stagnant fog in my valley. Additionally, the Republic Environmental Manager will drive to the area that a complaint was received, get out of his truck and smell the air and say something along the lines of "nothing to smell here". This ineffective response is completely insufficient and inaccurate. Of course he can't smell anything—he works at the dump every day and is used to the smell. Getting even a few feet away from his office is probably a significant improvement for his nose. This response does absolutely nothing to address the significant and VERY REAL experiences of the Corvallis community members.

In recent weeks, I have filed DEQ complaints more frequently, at least 4 times in the last 5 weeks. The dump smells seem to be increasing. As I write this today, I am stuck inside on a rare, rain free January day when I would love to be prepping my garden, playing with my dogs, and going for a hike. I am not because of the horrid smells that will cause immediate health issues if I spend time outside, like nausea and headaches.

Please deny the expansion.

Sincerely,

Priya Thakkar

38987 Arena Rd.

Corvallis, OR 97330