

From: [Nikolai Huiras](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 written testimony response
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Attachments: [LU-24-047testimonyNH.pdf](#)

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Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners,

Please find attached my written response to testimonies submitted during the first comment period.

Respectfully,
Nikolai Huiras
727 NW 12th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners,

This testimony is in response to two prior testimonies entered into the Reconsideration record last week, related to the DEQ Pre-Enforcement Notice:

Faye Yoshihara's testimony, Record ID: BOC4_T0778

Janet Ohmann's testimony, Record ID: BOC4_T0780

My testimony is submitted to assert that the impacts of strong landfill odors, and of more “silent” adverse health affects, range wider throughout our Valley than even Faye Yoshihara's detailed & helpful map suggests.

I have been a healthcare worker in Benton County since 2019. Part of my job duties involve visiting county residents directly in their homes, and I often work with the same individuals over a long period of time. For the preservation of my clients' privacy, I will not give identifying information about them, but I am compelled by the fundamental healthcare principal of **First Do No Harm** to document the impacts of the landfill upon them as well as myself.

A senior client, who is an aging veteran, has complained of foul odors inside their home near the intersection of Harrison Blvd & 35th Street on nearly every cold-air inversion day since winter 2024, when I first began visits. This client suffers headaches on “dump days,” and has much reduced physical activity when the air is foul-smelling, which contributes to muscle loss, chronic fatigue, social isolation, and depression. This veteran unequivocally deserves healthier air and reduced barriers to community & activities in their later years.

An adult client residing near the intersection of Walnut Blvd & 29th Street canceled three of our scheduled visits in November & December 2025 due to migraines that were directly caused by strong odors infiltrating from outside the home. The client described these odors as similar to a hot garbage can in the summer, but with something metallic or industrial that “burned” the interior of the nose. On one occasion, the systemic effects of odor-induced migraine illness resulted in this client needing emergency treatment. These unfortunate events and escalation of care needs are directly attributable to the wholly inadequate mitigation measures Republic Services has tried to pass off as responsible stewardship, publicly documented in the Oregon DEQ's Pre-Enforcement Notice (PEN) 2025-PEN-10025 to Republic Services subsidiary, Valley Landfills Inc. (VLI) on November 6, 2025.

Another senior client, a 50-plus-year resident of Corvallis who had a career and retired here, was receiving my services until August last year, when a sudden cancer diagnosis forced their care plans to change. This resident's property sits in a low-lying neighborhood near the intersection of Kings Blvd & Circle Blvd, which often collects quite strong odors on days with winds coming from the east. On multiple occasions from 2020 to 2025, this client was forced to cancel medical appointments, including some of my service visits, as well as preventative health screenings and diagnostic procedures which may have caught the signs of cancer earlier. These cancellations were on account of the resident's migraines and breathing problems experienced during air stagnation events with distinctive dump odors.

At the resident's property near Kings & Circle, it smelled like someone had tried to make cabbage soup with glass cleaner & metal polish, and left it on a warm stove for days. This client had a very strong sense of smell, more so than mine, and often detected chemical

odors on days when I did not, yet both of us felt unwell. I will forever wonder about the cumulative effects of both smelly and silent aerosol chemical exposures on this person, and as a health provider I cannot imagine condoning a course of action which could cause untold numbers of similar stories to unfold.

I have curtailed my trips outside my own home near Corvallis High School for similar reasons as the above-mentioned resident. I suffer migraines on days with unhealthy air quality, as well as odor-induced headaches on “dump days” when our very flat neighborhood bordering 9th Street seems to collect and concentrate the stink. The recent cold-air inversion event in mid-January brought such olfactory delights as rotting broccoli, moldy gym shoes, and a very sharp tang of something like paint solvent or drain cleaner. Since moving to Corvallis, I have been diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea complicated by idiopathic (no known direct cause) nasal congestion, which I never experienced before living in this valley.

Although I value my role as a local healthcare worker, my family and I have begun discussing the overall cost-benefits of remaining in a location that seems to have so many adverse impacts on my baseline health, through chronic pain and compromised breathing. I can only imagine how many others in the healthcare workforce are weighing similar decisions, since many of us both come into and exit this calling with chronic conditions directed affected by pollution & poor air quality. With the county already hemorrhaging providers, and residents suffering increased wait times, every provider departure and appointment cancellation stacks up into delayed care, missed diagnoses, under-reported chronic disease, and worsening public health outcomes.

I vehemently support the Planning Commission's unanimous recommendation of denial, and I urge you now to stand up for the health and well-being of all current & future county residents by denying Application LU-24-027.

Nikolai Huiras
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