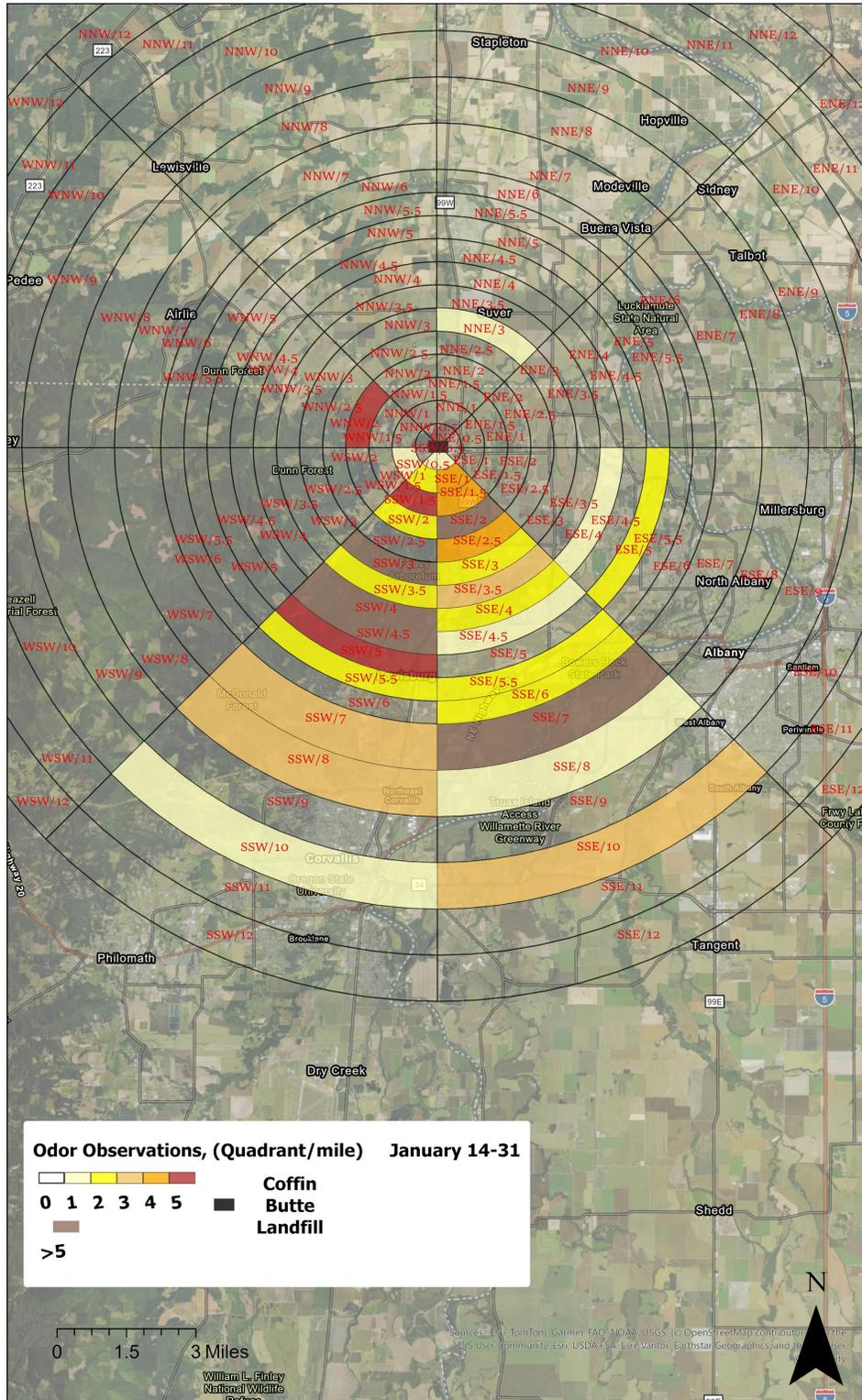


Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners, this is an update to my testimony on January 27, 2026 (BC04\_T0778) in response to Oregon DEQ's Pre-Enforcement Notice (PEN) which **includes a new map** to document **46 additional complaints, a total of 88 since January 1, 2026!** Some were submitted to DEQ and others as testimony to you this week. In compiling this data, I wanted to marvel at how, as Janet Ohmann, explained in her testimony (BC04\_T0780), topography impacts *'individual parcels of air'*. But instead, as I recorded addresses, I was left deeply dismayed by the wide-ranging impacts Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL) is having on residents' daily lives and livelihoods.



Residents corroborated the impacts I reported last week: In January 2026, 88 reports (more likely multiples of this number) in which households **did not go outside or limited time outdoors**. Five households **smelled stench inside** their homes and two people were woken up by the smell. Over **25 people reported headaches, nausea, stomach aches, eye, sinus or breathing impacts**. Erin Bradley's heartbreaking testimony helped another resident realize that her horse also suffered symptoms of exposure to landfill gases, which stopped when boarded further from the dump.

Note the broad geography and distances **up to 10 miles** in which **residents and businesses**, now come face to face with landfill stench, with **increasing frequency and intensity, on a seasonally regular basis**. This includes one farmer and two certified arborists - **outdoor livelihoods with no choice but to work** through it and live with the nausea and headaches they and their crews suffer. **A nature immersion preschool in Adair Village, cannot let the children outside to play and have smelled dump odors inside with air purifiers turned on**. These four businesses along with residential reports paints a picture of the increasing reach, patterns of stench and serious threats to livability. Reports from **McDonald Research Forest, Samaritan Regional Health Center and North Corvallis are ample evidence that things are getting worse, not better**. Republic Services operational practices are placing increased long term public health burdens on Benton County. A 12-year resident of Adair Village observed *"Over the last four years, the smell from the dump has become worse; air stagnation days haven't changed, only the level of smell."*

**The complaints received by DEQ have increased: 63 in 2024 to 117 in 2025**. This January, 42 occurred during the January 13 – 14 weather inversion, however five complaints were on January 31, an otherwise sunny day. Landfill stench greeted these residents, in disparate locations, as they stepped outside to what should have been a beautiful, Saturday morning. Some reported fog lifting, while others had clear skies. The common denominator was that **their parcel of air contained landfill stench**, for some lasting less than an hour, for others hours or a lost day.

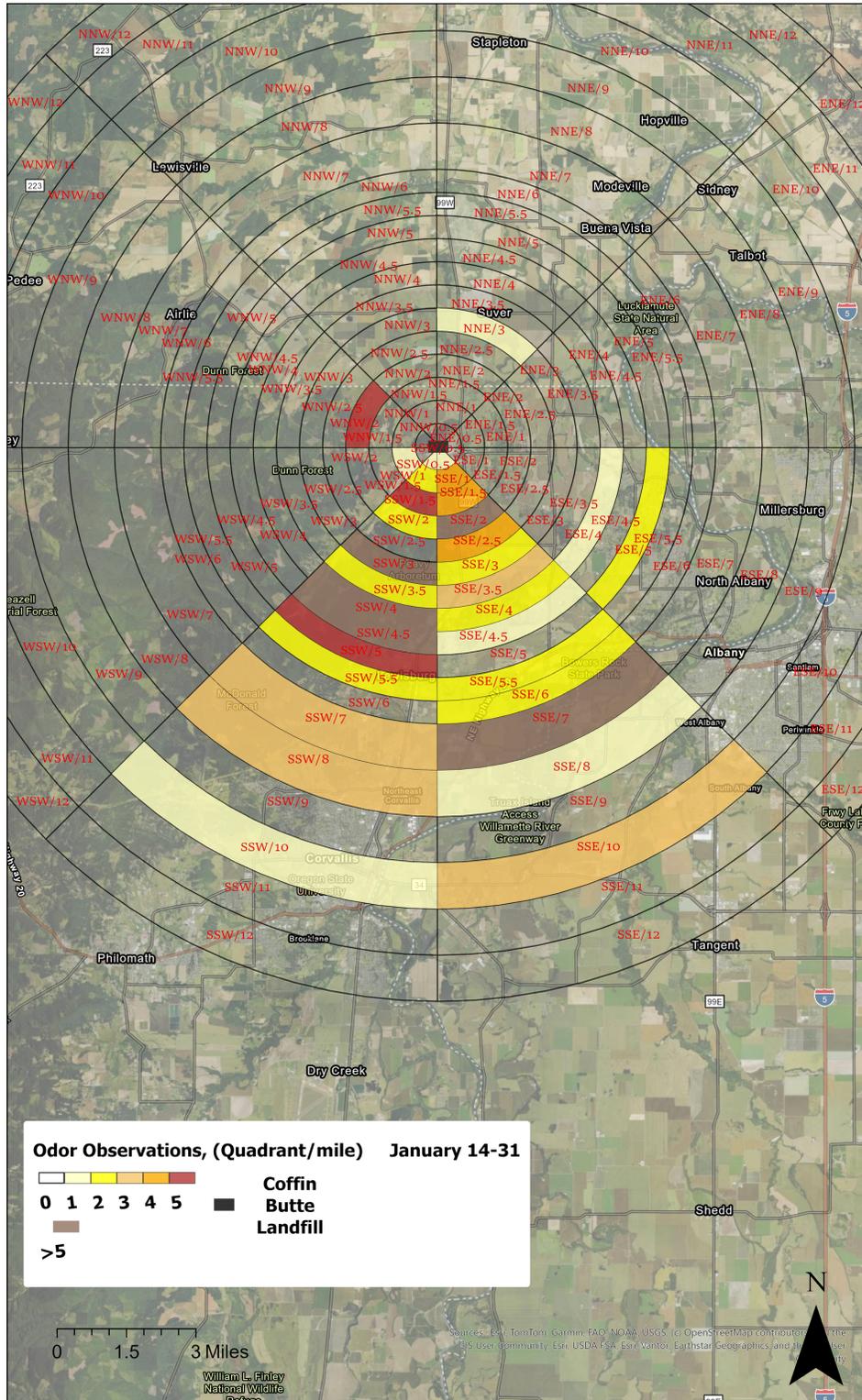
You will note that this **map with CBL at the center** shows few reports to the north. Yes, prevailing winds are from the south. But, winds do blow out of the north, and the month of January has been a period with low winds and air stagnation, as reported in many testimonies. **Reports come from where people live**. Much of the land to the N/NE has few residences. However, impacts are evident from the report in January from Suver Rd 3.5 miles north, and the Emerson vineyard sale, 4 miles north, that fell through due to landfill odors. We have anecdotal evidence that visitors to EE Wilson routinely smell the dump, but they do not report. While collecting moss samples for a study of heavy metals around CBL (*Jovan, S., E. Jacobson, J.M. Unrine, N. Jalili-Jahani, and B. McCune. In prep. Putting biomonitors to work: heavy metals in epiphytic moss around a rural landfill. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*; companion research paper published on [solid waste incineration](#) ), we heard that the ridge had protected residents from the stench, until recently. One said now that **Republic Services is working at higher elevations, the stench is beginning to waft over their ridge**.

Reports are made when odors reach levels that impact our lives. However, this week's **testimonies underscore the reality of under-reporting**. One resident shared tracking data documenting 29 dump days (and times) for 2025, but she reported to DEQ only a fraction of those days. Residents, especially working folks, do not have time to get through the burdensome DEQ reporting process, which is exceptionally difficult on a mobile device. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Republic Services Odor Patrol stated that *"no landfill odors detected.....however wood smoke and a strong ocean smell coupled with what seemed like fresh fish was detected"*. The reports we get back from Paul Koster, Environmental Manager at CBL, would be laughable, if it weren't such a serious health matter. **The complaint driven compliance system, as currently applied, is unable to protect residents' health**.

Please use your discretionary authority to reverse your decision and uphold your Planning Commission's unanimous denial of LU-24-027.

Sincerely,  
Faye Yoshihara  
37461 Soap Creek Rd.  
Corvallis, OR 97330

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