

**From:** [Bart Spiller](#)  
**To:** [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 2:23:09 PM  
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Here is a PDF of my testimony for LU-24-027 thank you Bart Spiller

Bart Spiller  
37420 Moss Rock Dr  
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February 3, 2026

To: Benton County Commissioners LU-2

Testimony: referencing DEQ PEN 2025-10025, Faye Yoshihara ID BOC4 T0778 and Janet Ohmann IDBOC4 T0780

My wife and I have live in the Soap Creek Valley for 27 years. We have witnessed the expansion of the landfill over that time. We have a good view of the dump approximately 5 miles away. We are a mile SW from Janet Ohmann's home at an elevation of 400 ft. During the recent winter weather inversion, 1/13 & 1/14, we experienced intense pollution/odor from the Valley Landfill. This was also noted in Faye Yoshahara's testimony. As we know now the "odor" has dangerous gasses as well as methane. We filed a complaint to DEQ on one of the days, but the DEQ reporting system was down on the following day so we were unable to report the violation.

The DEQ PEN notice affirms what the public testimony stated to the Benton County Planning Commission last year. The Commission's unanimous denial of the Valley Landfill expansion and the testimony by the Public was discounted by the County's legal and planning staff. The county has also disregarded recommendations from officially sanctioned citizen advisory committees as well. After many hours of testimony from witness observations and factual data about the dangers that the landfill poses to the public we have lost faith in our local government to act on our behalf.

Now that the DEQ PEN has given the the County "official notice" of the violations of the Valley Landfill we are back to the testimony phase. As we look at the Dump from our deck we have to wonder how this environmental disaster has been able to expand to the scale that we see now? The current franchise agreement has given Republic Services little incentive to reduce waste and or monitor what goes into the landfill. Based on the widespread pollution that emanates from this landfill the notion of what is adjacent needs to be reconsidered. People are being exposed to the hazards of the landfill many miles away and not limited to the abutting properties. Shouldn't we consider this fact when evaluating the Conditional Use Permit?

The Valley Landfill has know of the pollution violation for years, but here we are witnessing the ongoing exposure to such pollution. Self monitoring by Valley Landfills hasn't worked and our local and state governments don't seem to be able to protect us either. Is Republic Services to be trusted? Has Republic posed any solutions past the the closing of the landfill? We need to come up with long term solutions to solid waste management in our community

Do we really want to allow this "environmental disaster" to expand and perpetuate the problem for future generations. We say no! Let's do the right thing and plan for a better future.

Sincerely, Bart Spiller and Dale Draeger.

