
LU-24-027

From Bonnie Grubbs <bgrubbs4@gmail.com>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 5:37 PM
To Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals <landfillappeals@bentoncountyor.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.

I live in the surrounding area and have personally experienced landfill odors well beyond the site boundary, including in nearby neighborhoods. This is not an abstract concern. The smells are noticeable, persistent at times, and indicative of gas emissions that affect people who live, work, and recreate nearby. Expanding a facility that already produces off-site impacts raises serious questions about public health and quality of life.

The location of this landfill is also deeply troubling from an environmental standpoint. Coffin Butte sits within proximity to the Willamette River and connected tributaries. These waterways are critical ecological resources and are already under stress from development, agriculture, and climate impacts. Expanding a landfill in this location increases long-term risks related to leachate, groundwater contamination, and cumulative environmental damage, even with mitigation measures in place. When contamination occurs, it is often irreversible and borne by downstream communities and ecosystems.

I am also concerned by the landfill's compliance history. A facility with known violations and enforcement actions should not be expanded without first demonstrating sustained, verifiable compliance and a clear reduction in off-site impacts. Expanding capacity before resolving these issues sends the wrong message about accountability and oversight.

From an economic perspective, concentrating waste from across Oregon in this location does not make sense. Benton County and nearby residents are absorbing the environmental and health burdens of trash generated far beyond the local community. This approach externalizes costs while placing disproportionate risk on rural and semi-rural residents and on sensitive natural systems.

This decision is not just about waste capacity. It is about land-use priorities, environmental responsibility, and whether community health and watershed protection are being treated as non-negotiable values. I urge the county to deny the expansion and to instead pursue waste reduction, regional equity in waste management, and alternatives that do not increase risk to people or to the Willamette River system.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Grubbs