

# LU-24-027 IN-PERSON TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL COVER SHEET

Received From: Kathleen Van Camp & Michael Sovereign

Date: 1/26/2026

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BOC ID: ~~BOC4~~ BOC4

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Van Camp/Sovereign  
5542 SW Redtop Place  
Corvallis, OR 97333

Butler County Commission

RE: L 0-24-027 -

Land, 11 Expansion

January 23, 2026

To the Benton County Board of Commissioners,

Methane is a toxic, volatile, highly flammable gas, and it has been spewing from the Coffin Butte landfill for years. Republic services should have addressed this issue immediately upon being made aware of the terrible emissions. Actually, they should not have needed to be notified of the emissions by EPA, they should have prevented the deficiencies in the first place. Otherwise, Republic Services should have been actively monitoring for methane and other leaks and then attending to the problems. Instead, they wait for a notification of an enforcement action, before reacting. It took the state of Oregon years to bring an action against Republic Services, and have yet to press for fines. How do the Benton County Commissioners expect to both properly monitor all environmental aspects of the landfill, let alone pursue any kind of enforcement action against the operators.

Explosions and fire are a constant danger during the dry season. A spark could set off a methane fueled conflagration that may well wipe a Wildlife refuge off the map. What protection is there for the homes and businesses that are located near there. High concentrations of methane displaces oxygen in the air, reducing the amount of oxygen available to breathe.

Republic services on the ground employees, inhale this stuff every working day. This cannot be good for their long term health. If the corporate machine cares so little for their own employees, how much consideration do they give to the citizens, wildlife, livestock, waterways, and farms of Benton County?

Trash must go somewhere, but it does not all have to be dumped here. Please deny the expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill. Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Van Camp and Michael Sovereign

5542 SW Redtop Place, Corvallis, OR 97333