

From: [Miriam Landman](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: written testimony for LU-24-027
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 6:17:57 PM
Attachments: [CoffinButte-testimony-Landman.docx](#)

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[If you need the following comments as an attached file, here they are in that format:]

Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners:

Thank you for revisiting and reconsidering your previous approval of the landfill expansion, given that new information has become available from the Oregon DEQ. Their pre-enforcement notice indicated that the landfill operator has failed to safeguard public health and the environment by committing the following violations:

1. Failure to conduct appropriate surface emissions monitoring for gas leaks
2. Failure to install and operate the necessary gas collection and control systems
3. Failure to maintain landfill cover to minimize gas emissions

DEQ determined that the landfill has been operating outside of regulatory compliance, and the landfill operator has consistently failed to take corrective action. DEQ found that Coffin Butte consistently underestimates and underreports the amount of methane gas that is produced by the facility. Republic claims that 72% of the landfill is exempt from monitoring, but only DEQ can approve such an exemption and they have not approved an exemption.

Republic Services has continuously shown a disregard for the law, for the health and safety of landfill neighbors, for the environment, and for their contractual obligations with the County. The County should not reward their ongoing violations and allow further harm by allowing them to expand their operations. The landfill already takes in far too much waste from other parts of the state, and that should be rectified. We cannot be the dumping ground for much of Western Oregon and beyond.

I hope that the County will work to find a better landfill operator as soon as possible: one that will honor its responsibilities to its neighbors, the County, the State, and the environment. (Companies such as Recology have a much better reputation and they engage in more responsible and sustainable operations.)

My husband and I are good citizens and property-tax-paying homeowners here. And we are not sure that we want to continue to live in Corvallis much longer if this landfill situation is not addressed properly. If we had known about this situation prior to moving here, we might not have decided to move here.

I urge you to revoke approval of the landfill's expansion, for our public health, our environment, climate, and so we can all be proud to live in this community. This is what most of your constituents—as well as our state representatives—want and expect.

Thank you.

Miriam Landman

NW Highland Dr., Corvallis 97330

P.S. This was a July article from High Country News about the Coffin Butte landfill; they have covered our landfill problems before: <https://www.hcn.org/articles/an-oregon-law-tries-to-tackle-garbage-gases/>

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