

From: [James Searls](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 Cup application testimony (Deny please)
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 1:10:09 AM
Attachments: [Coffin Butte Landfill written testimony.docx](#)

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To whom it may concern,

Please see the attached document as my testimony for the reconsideration of Republic Services landfill expansion. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Have a great day.

Best,
James Searls

38538 HWY 99W
Corvallis, OR, 97330
James@smilefarm.us
www.smilefarm.us

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Monday, January 26, 2026

To the Benton County Board of Commissioners,

My name is James Searls. I live at 38538 Highway 99W, Corvallis, Oregon, 97330. I live here with my son, Burton and our dog, Leroy, where we raise chickens and grow a small farm. Our north property line is adjacent to the property of Republic Services' projected landfill expansion. The landfill already negatively impacts the quality of our lives in many ways. I am writing to ask the Benton County Commissioners to deny the CUP application LU-24-027 submitted by Republic Services and Valley Landfill Inc. An expansion will devastate.

Upon reading the report of violations given to the Coffin Butte Landfill by the Department of Environmental Quality in November 2025, the frequent odor nuisances make more sense as it appears the applicants are not following protocol under OAR 340-239-0800(3)

I regularly file odor complaints on the DEQ website as the smell of the landfill infects our lives. I must note that I don't file a complaint every time that I can smell the dump. I should but I have better things to do than spend my life committed to their garbage operation. It often feels as though the odor complaints do nothing.

Moreover, when I do file a complaint, Republic Services doesn't take responsibility. They simply respond and avoid culpability by stating they have done everything by the books. Well, by THEIR books apparently which the violations show that their system is not adequately designed for the existing landfill. They even site the seemingly static wind direction that their weather system has on record to avoid culpability (please see attached email response below). These violations they received in November 2025 are proof of the projected poor air quality wafting our way in my opinion.

The landfill is already not running the site by code. Expanding the operations will inherently make it harder for them to maintain their systems and follow code in the future. I fear the eminent threat this has on the quality of our lives. The recent report goes on to states that some of the noxious emissions could be carcinogenic. Should I be concerned about this?

Regardless of approval or denial of the LU-24-027 cup application, I would like to install some type of air/emissions monitoring system on my property to test the air quality without subjection. Without Republic Services offering to have one of their own personnel visit my farm to falsify my complaint. It is a nice gesture, however, hardly seems fair or objective. It was told to me by DEQ that Republic Services has yet to confirm an odor complaint after

visiting site of complaint. Perhaps the county or state could help me find a verified system to help ensure safety for neighbors of the landfill.

Could the Benton County Board recommend an air quality or gas emissions monitor system? Could air quality monitoring of neighboring properties be added to the code so the county knows how to better serves our community? I believe it would be beneficial to know what my family is breathing.

Coffin Butte Landfill management has already acted in bad faith, violated codes and are not taking responsibility when accused. Granting them greater amounts of garbage is wrong. Rubbish really and an expansion won't make it right.

Republic Services asked the Board of Commissioners during their final comments in October of 2025 to NOT think about the 100 or so people who live near the landfill that will obviously be impacted, but, rather think about the thousands and thousands of people of which they provide services.

Well, I am writing now to beg you to think about me and the quality of my health and wellbeing. I'm begging you to think about my 10-year-old son, Burton Searls, and the quality of his health and wellbeing. I am begging you to deny the CUP application LU-24-027. Please don't let them expand.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this. I look forward to your decisions. Have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

James Searls

Owner of Smile Farm

38538 HWY 99W

Corvallis, OR, 97330

3193319885

www.smilefarm.us

12:30 p.m. - *“Yet another day where properties surrounding the landfill have to endure the dump smells. Just got*

home from working and overwhelmed by the smell of the Coffin Butte Landfill. I am worried about how bad this will get if the landfill is able to expand. Please help.” – less than a mile SSE of the landfill

- No odor Patrol was conducted on Sunday as site was closed.
- Gas system was reported to be working as designed when crews arrived Monday morning on December 29, 2025.
- Operations also reported no upset with their work were observed when they arrived Monday morning.
- The Coffin Butte weather station data indicates the winds were calm 0-4 mph primarily from the **west-southwest** at the time of the complaint was made to DEQ. Temperature was 36F with intermittent rain throughout the afternoon
- During the week, operations continues to deploy plastic and soil over the intermediate cover to reduce on-site odors and the potential for offsite odors, as well as rainfall infiltration into the waste mass. Working decks remain as small of a footprint as possible to reduce exposed trash.
- All operations are now working within one working face.
- All trash was covered at night per our permit.