

From: [Wheeler, Patricia A](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Coffin Butte expansion LU 24-027
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 10:27:53 AM
Attachments: [Comments on Coffin Butte January 2026.pdf](#)

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Please include the attached letter into the record for LU 24-027.

This is submitted on behalf of Friends of Polk County by Patricia Wheeler

12090 Rolling Hills Rd.

Monmouth, OR 97361



Friends of Polk County

TO: Benton County Board of Commissioners

January 25, 2026

RE: Application for Coffin Butte expansion (LU-24-027) and DEQ Pre-enforcement Letter

Friends of Polk County is a local citizen group that seeks to promote wise management of farm and forest land, a high level of livability in our urban and rural communities and a strong resource-based economy. Polk County lies adjacent to Benton County and we have growing concerns about the negative impacts of the Coffin Butte Landfill on the Willamette Valley. As Coffin Butte has been accepting dramatically more waste since 2017, the trash along Highway 99W, the methane emissions and the pervasive odor particularly have all reached unacceptable levels. Republic Services has not effectively dealt with these problems.

We urge you to vote against expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill for the following reasons:

- (1) The DEQ letter indicates that Republic Services has not been in compliance with EPA and DEQ regulations from 2022-2025.
- (2) Past approval of the expansion relied on findings that the current operation was in compliance with state and federal regulations. These findings are no longer valid.
- (3) On November 12, DSAC discussed the DEQ letter with Republic Services staff and was told that it was “merely a request for more information”. DSAC members questioned this representation and planned for a follow-up discussion on January 14. The county did not allow that January 14 meeting to occur.

We urge the Commissioners to deny this application for expansion and to demand more accountability from Republic Services regarding their compliance with state and federal regulations.

Patricia Wheeler, Board Member

Submitted on behalf of Friends of Polk County

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