

From: [Faye Yoshihara](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 Testimony - Mapping Odor and Cancer
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 11:57:55 AM
Attachments: [CUP LU-24-027 Faye Yoshihara BoC Mapping Odor and Cancer 27Jan26.pdf](#)

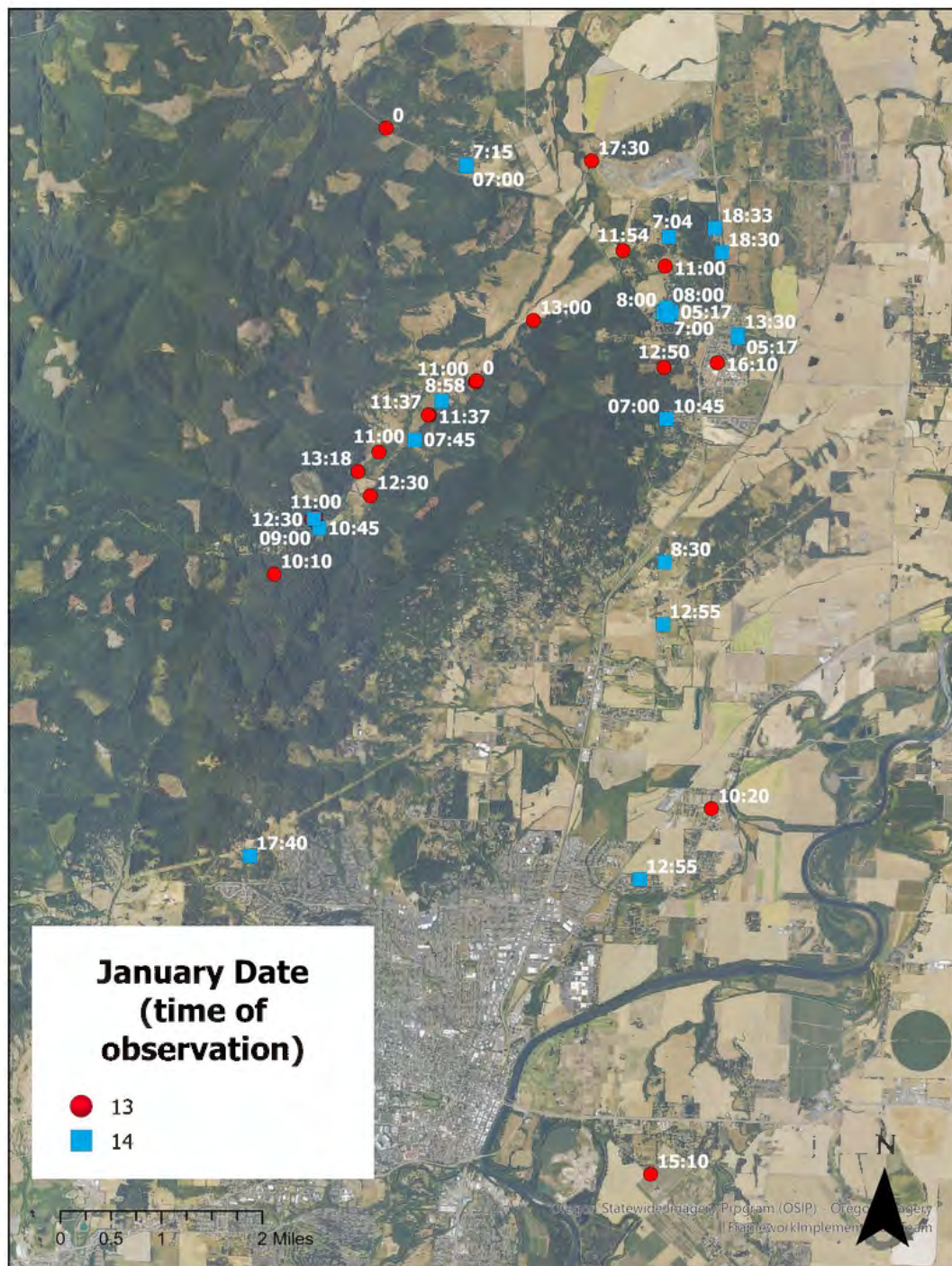
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners, attached please find my testimony.

Sincerely,
Faye Yoshihara
37461 Soap Creek Rd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners, I am submitting testimony in response to Oregon DEQ's Pre-Enforcement Notice (PEN) 2025-PEN-10025 to Republic Services subsidiary, Valley Landfills Inc. on November 6, 2025.

Seven Class I violations including surface emissions, gas collection and control, landfill cover integrity and fugitive dust covered in the PEN, **translate into the ongoing undue burdens to neighbors' daily lives and livelihoods** as documented in prior testimony. The PEN covers the period from 2021 to the present. This testimony documents the present; **dump days just two weeks ago**, that reinforce residents long experience with a company that does not operate responsibly and continues to negatively impact the character of our area.



This is a map of **42 odor complaints filed on the worst two days, January 13 – 14, 2026, of a four-day weather inversion**. Complaints include: most residents **did not go outside or limited time outdoors**, with several reporting **financial impacts due to their inability to work**. Two households **smelled stench inside** their homes (windows closed), 7 people reported **headaches**, 6 others suffered **nausea** and/or **stomach aches**, and one said the “*odor was so strong you could taste it*”. Parents reported concerns about **children** being outside, one pregnant woman is concerned about her **unborn baby**. In the population center of Adair Village, one person said “*The air smelled rancid. We always smell strong odor when we have fog/air stagnation, but this was horrific.*” This comment speaks the applicant’s attempts to say neighbors expect no odors. In reality, reports are made when the stench reaches levels that impact our lives.

Republic Services responded with their Odor Patrol, noses blind to landfill gases. Paul Koster, Environmental Manager at Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL) reported that no landfill odors were detected, however damp and rotting leaves, wood smoke and musty odors were noted. In a prior life, I was a sensory scientist working with human panels for the purposes of claim substantiation. I understand the sensitivity of the human olfactory system. Their Odor Patrol demonstrates the complicated realities of **anosmia, in which particular molecules cannot be smelled due to overexposure** (which even the Staff Report acknowledged), **while other molecules can be smelled**. Weather inversions and low winds exacerbate the way landfill stench sits and shifts in pockets of public and private property. While it is hard to believe Republic Services noses could not verify even one instance of what scores of residents could smell, they do only patrol on public property. This means even if their noses are working, they do not experience the full reaches of landfill stench, in which weather, topography and elevation matter. More than one person noted the differences in odor between their home on private property vs. the public roads where Republic Services conducts their flawed Odor Patrol.

Others have covered the many flaws in the SCS Consultant’s odor study. The Staff Report “*places a high value on the technical review*” yet admits that “*weather systems produce different odor patterns*”. The PEN has brought to light these flaws and the many operational deficiencies that should be addressed before the CUP’s conditions of approval (COA) can be considered.

The EPA states that the public recognizes **hydrogen sulfide (H2S) at 2 – 3 ppb** (billion). I submitted data (BOC1_T0107) showing H2S at **250 – 500 ppb**, 4 miles southwest of CBL on days when the landfill stench rose to nuisance levels. These data are magnitudes below Republic Services’ assumed value of **36 ppm (36,000 ppb)** for their Title V permit. Are we expected to live with 36,000 ppb when we can smell 3 ppb and are driven indoors by 250 ppb?

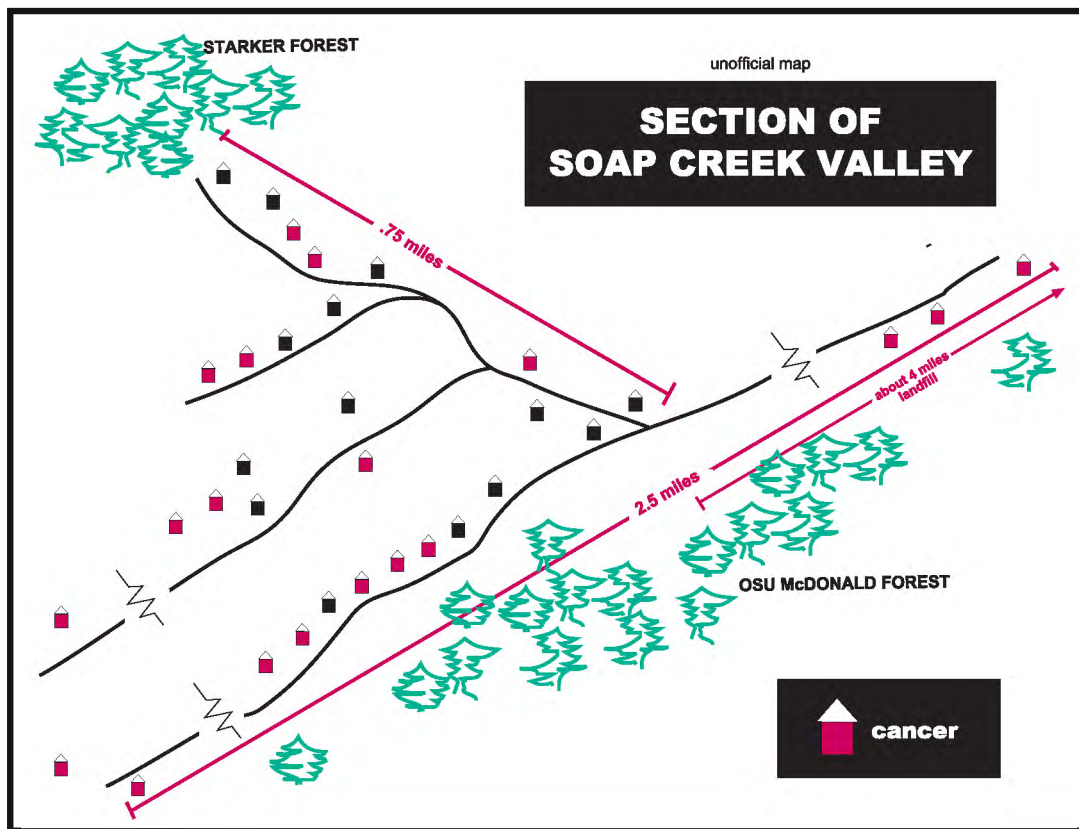
Republic Services Odor Patrol is worthless until they begin to routinely use a mechanical device to smell for landfill gas odors. The Staff Report assumes COA P2-3 and OR4, with **periodic** H2S and Nasal Ranger monitoring and **once a month 3rd party verification** will ensure compliance. As the events of January 13 – 14 demonstrate, the COAs are inadequate for monitoring. Time, location, elevation, topography, wind speed and direction, on and offsite the dump are critical, but inadequately addressed. Beyond these monitoring issues, the question of mitigation is not even addressed in the COAs.

Odors are just one signal, a canary in the coalmine/dump, of health hazards leaving Coffin Butte Landfill and onto our properties and now even inside our homes. Many toxic airborne carcinogens, including PFAS, have no odor. OSU’s Dr. Jennifer Field (T0681), a national PFAS expert, made **Key Point #4: Landfills release volatile PFAS via gas emissions that double the uncontrolled total PFAS mass emission of landfills**. Landfill gas is diluted by air as it travels downwind. Air immediately above landfills has measurable PFAS concentration (19 ng/m3), while **locations 5 km (3 miles) downwind of landfills still have detectable levels (0.2 – 2 ng/m3 PFAS)**.

The DEQ PEN referenced the impacts to public health. “*Landfill gas also includes nonmethane organic compounds, some of which are known or suspected carcinogens and may cause other serious health effects. Landfill gas emissions also affect human welfare due to odor. Therefore, failure to control landfill gas emissions from the Coffin Butte landfill as required has significant environmental and public health impacts*”

During the appeal hearings, one brave cancer survivor spoke. Others have divulged their stories. This is an **updated cancer map**, of one small area of **Soap Creek Valley**. We continue to learn of **cancer cases encircling CBL, including**

Tampico, Trillium, Military Road and Adair Village. Cancer diagnoses, deaths, and pre-cancers include bladder, brain, breast, lung, prostate, stomach and throat. Other significant health diagnoses include high cholesterol, liver damage, stroke, and thyroid issues. Respiratory issues and asthma rates are known to be higher near a landfill. We do not have direct evidence to attribute these cancers to CBL, but as Vicki Idema, the map maker, asked of you: “Can Republic confirm the cancers we have out here have nothing to do with the toxins they dumped into the landfill?”



The Oregon DEQ’s PEN reinforces the reality of Republic Services’ woefully inadequate odor monitoring and total lack of a plan to mitigate public health harms. We know harmful substances leave the landfill and are in the air we breathe. We see the high levels of cancers in our neighborhood. Expanding Coffin Butte Landfill **seriously threatens the livability on and uses of adjacent properties** [Benton County Code 53.215 (1)], **seriously impacts the character of the area** [Benton County Code 53.215 (1)], **and imposes an undue burden on first responders, and health professionals and services, and the health of the county’s residents and neighboring residents.** [Benton County Code 53.215 (2)]

Please use your discretionary authority to reverse your decision and uphold your Planning Commission’s unanimous denial of LU-24-027.

Sincerely,
Faye Yoshihara
37461 Soap Creek Rd.
Corvallis, OR 97330