

From: [Rick Fletcher](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: WEB FORM SUBMISSION - LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Testimony
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 2:58:54 PM

Subject of Testimony: Documented Repeated Violations By DEQ Demands Stopping Landfill Expansion

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Written Testimony:

Thank you Benton County Commissioners for choosing to reconsider your earlier approval of the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion. Truly the situation is different since the DEQ PEN notification letter. In my opinion, the DEQ letter of Nov. 6, 2025 to Valley Landfills contains compelling evidence that this operator has consistently failed to execute required environmental laws and monitoring requirements since the NESHAP requirements were put in place September 2021. During this time they have greatly increased flow of trash from other counties, at the same time they asked for less monitoring, and greatly failed through the monitoring they did do, both in doing monitoring correctly, and in the negative results collected regarding their pollution levels. With 7 Class 1 violations listed in the DEQ letter, they have demonstrated that they are not an operator that can be trusted with our area's future environmental health, and should not be given the ability to expand the existing landfill.

I was particularly interested in the comment later in the DEQ letter about fugitive dust. As I pointed out in my earlier testimony on this issue, I have experienced the dust escape from the landfill personally, both onsite during the tipping operation, and by finding an increasing number of plastic bags that travel into my Christmas tree operation about a mile southwest of the landfill. This may be a bigger problem than it now seems, but has just not been monitored very closely. I am very concerned with what this dust contains, and how it may be impacting the health of humans, wildlife, domestic animals in our neighborhood. Valley Landfills could have prevented and/or stopped this, but they have not. Another failure on the part of this operator.

I urge you to use this new information from DEQ to reverse your November decision, and to deny the Coffin Butte landfill expansion. I know we all want a healthy, sustainable environment to pass on to our kids and grandkids. Thank you for making this testimony possible.

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