



Written testimony

From Erin Bradley <eronan2003@yahoo.com>
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To Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals <landfillappeals@bentoncountyor.gov>

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Commissioners,

My name is Erin Bradley; I am a director and Head of Operations at Bit by Bit. I live at 38578 OR-99W, Corvallis, OR 97330, which is also Bit by Bit's primary location of operation.

I would like to share some images of Bit by Bit's program horses with you, all of which had to be relocated from the above property in October of last year due to health concerns, some of which are listed below:

- All five had hives regularly prior to being relocated
- Two had injured their eyes due to rubbing from severe itching – one injury required stitches resulting in an emergency vet bill of \$565.
- All five had consistent white nasal discharge due to respiratory distress – one was coughing frequently with sufficient violence to elevate a rider off its back momentarily (very dangerous for our disabled clients).
- All five had increased fatigue levels and extended post-session recovery after working.

Typical signs of general gas toxicity in livestock related to the issues above include the following, all of which we have noted in Bit by Bit's horses:

- Labored breathing
- Coughing or nasal irritation
- Lethargy
- Collapse or sudden respiratory compromise
- Avoidance of specific areas with odors

Two weeks after being relocated last fall, all five horses' hives disappeared; nasal discharge and coughing also stopped and has not returned – this makes it clear that the polluted air blowing in from the landfill is a hazard to our livestock. The above negative impacts on the horses' health also reduce their ability to be utilized for client sessions, which in turn results in reduced revenue causing negative financial impacts.

In addition, our livestock cannot be let out to graze due to plastic blowing in over the buffer area (if an animal ingests plastic, it cause intestinal blockage, potentially resulting in death), which results in the horses spending substantially increased time stalled in the barn. On the frequent days polluted air blows onto the property, the smell (and hence the toxic components) concentrate and linger in the stalls, forcing the animals to breath bad air, putting a huge strain on their' health. The increased time spent stalled also results in more frequent cleaning, putting additional demands on staff (as well as exposing staff to polluted air for longer periods.)

Our property is no longer usable for the purpose for which was purchased – as a result, late last year, the Bit By Bit board reluctantly made the sad announcement that we will have to close late in 2026 due to the need to relocate to protect the health of animals and staff. Unfortunately, due to the loss in property value caused by impacts from the landfill, we do not have sufficient funds to purchase a suitable location.

Republic Services was contacted with an offer to sell the property in hopes of generating sufficient funds to enable Bit By Bit to relocate and continue serving the community. Republic Services' response was that they are not interested in purchasing the property at this time as it will be many years before they expand.

We are left with birds making trash nests woven from blue tarp threads and lined with plastic bags - a clear sign of our property's environment degradation! Republic Services has shown by their refusal to make this right that they will not be here to clean up the mess as our environment becomes more polluted.

For all of the above reasons, I respectfully request you deny the proposed expansion due to the impact on the disabled community, foster children, adjacent properties, and the environment.









