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Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 3:56 PM
To: Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals
Subject: LU-24-027 Testimony

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January 27, 2026
To the Benton County Board of Commissioners,

This testimony is in response to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Pre-Enforcement Notice dated November 6, 2025 and issued to Bret Davis, Valley Landfills, Inc. regarding operations at the Coffin Butte Landfill.

The notice as issued served to confirm extensive and previously established public complaints, public testimony and submitted documentation received by the county during the LU-24-027 public hearings before the Benton County Planning Commission and the Benton County Board of Commissioners.

It is clearly articulated throughout the DEQ enforcement notice the ongoing lack of compliance by Coffin Butte Landfill. As such, the Benton County Board of Commissioners in making their decision on the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill, must consider the implications and consequences of this now documented non-compliance regarding the operations of Coffin Butte Landfill to the county's residents, businesses, visitors, economy, natural areas and rural and urban communities within the county and adjacent region.

Per statute, and in interpreting Benton County Code, the Commissioners must also consider the policies of the Benton County Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Plans of Adair Village, Albany, Corvallis, Monroe and Philomath in addition to related plans and agreements including the Urban Fringe Management Agreement.

Per Benton County Code, 53.215, the criteria requires that an application does not seriously interfere with uses on adjacent property, with character of the area, or with purpose of the zone.

The following violations are outlined in the DEQ letter and illustrate the risk of consequence and harm to the environment, county residents, visitors, businesses, agricultural lands and natural areas from the non-compliance at Coffin Butte Landfill.

- Insufficient surface emissions monitoring
- Insufficient and/or improperly managed gas control and control systems
- Inadequate landfill cover integrity
- Insufficiently controlled fugitive dust from the landfill

The Pre-Enforcement Notice issued by Oregon DEQ, now accepted and included in the record for these proceedings, clearly demonstrates where the landfill expansion application and current operations at Coffin Butte Landfill do not comply with these criteria, nor the language set in the comprehensive plans of the Benton County municipalities of which must be used to evaluate and interpret criteria established in the Benton County Code. As a result, any proposed landfill expansion that cannot adequately respond to these criteria should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Biscoe

Philomath, Oregon

Serving as a member of the Benton County Planning Commission throughout these proceedings, but submitting this testimony as a resident and taxpayer in Benton County.