

**From:** [Daryl Bryce Downey MD](#)  
**To:** [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)  
**Subject:** WEB FORM SUBMISSION - LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Testimony  
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Subject of Testimony: Landfill extension appeal

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Written Testimony:

I know that the BC Commissioners have struggled through this whole landfill application and the community's response. My research into this exceeds the limited length of this form. There is a conflict between present need, contracts, and long term consequences of these decisions. Before there was a Republic involved here to manage Coffin Butte, the state government met to change overall management of landfills and eventually took over, in it's own way, our landfill. Before doing so they concluded that Coffin Butte was not a long term solution. Chief among these reasons was it's efforts as a state to gauge long term risks to the valley water and farming lands.

You three as trusted leaders have the long term focus as well. The plume of toxicity from any landfill is a major risk to all of the valley through water and regional risks. A doctoral thesis on this matter was published last year in Michigan. "The threat of landfill leachate contamination for groundwater and well sources", by Mitchell Taylor. Among his notes is the warning that even "closed landfills" are a threat even 25 years after closure. This advancing plume moves slowly, is likely to follow ground water underground and movement will continue to the Willamette River contributing its toxic lead, iron, PFA's, and many other heavy metals. Thus, not only Benton County residents and farm lands east of the landfill but also downstream communities.

The paradox is the present vs the long term. I spoke with representatives of Republic at a community forum, speaking to engineers and 'scientists'. They quickly said that they were not going to look beyond the present into the effects of PFAs or other matters. They were locked into safeguarding present operations regarding methane, emissions and structural integrity. This they ultimately failed to meet by recent reports.

The present council has as it's calling the protection of the county population and lands for now and the long term future. We need a change in the landfills direction and problem solving here and at the State level.

Thank you.

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