

**From:** [Deborah Pence](#)  
**To:** [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)  
**Subject:** fayeyoshihara@gmail.com  
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Dear Benton County Commissioners,

**This letter is in response to the testimony submitted by Erin Bradley from Bit by Bit regarding the landfill expansion during the first 7 day period.**

Until I read that testimony, I had not considered a possible connection between my horse's health issues and his proximity to the landfill. From 2012 to 2020, my horse was boarded at a barn located seven miles due south of the landfill. For the last four years at that location, he experienced many of the same symptoms described in Erin Bradley's testimony: labored breathing, persistent coughing, recurring hives, and severe eye irritation. After relocating him in 2020 to a barn twenty miles southwest of the landfill, every one of these symptoms resolved and has not returned.

While correlation does not prove causation, the consistency of these observations across different owners, different barns, and different horses is difficult to overlook. When the same cluster of health issues appears within a similar radius from the landfill, and disappears after relocation away from the landfill, it raises a legitimate concern about environmental exposure.

So, even without definitive causation, is expanding the landfill a risk worth taking? When the potential consequence involves the health of children living and playing in north Corvallis, caution seems like the responsible path. Expanding the landfill would simply increase both the magnitude and reach of exposure. While I am grateful that my horse's symptoms resolved after relocation, I still cannot know whether the years he lived near the landfill caused any long term or unseen impacts. And unlike my horse, many families living near the landfill cannot simply "move away" from potential exposure.

I respectfully ask the County to weigh these patterns carefully and consider the broader implications for community health as you evaluate the proposed expansion.

Sincerely,

Deborah Pence