
Response to testimony re. LU-24-027, DEQ's PEN

From Kyle Bernheim <bernheim@gmail.com>

Date Fri 1/30/2026 3:48 PM

To Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals <landfillappeals@bentoncountyor.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners:

Regarding LU-24-027, I am responding to Janet Ohmann's testimony (BC04_T0780 - Jan 27, 2026 - OHMANN Janet) and Faye Yoshihara's testimony (BC04_T0778 - Jan 27, 2026 - YOSHIHARA Faye). As a Soap Creek valley resident, I can verify that the odor of Coffin Butte Landfill is already a serious problem for the area. It has already been an issue, smelling rank, rancid and rotten, this year on January 13 and 14, 2026, and has repeatedly and consistently been an issue every year in recent memory. Local residents are affected by this odor in their homes, their cars and the outdoors. Travelers entering our county on 99W are greeted with this stench and must roll up their car windows. You are well aware of the seven Class I infractions of existing law and permitting brought forth by the Oregon DEQ against Valley Landfills, Inc. Any expansion would worsen an existing, unfixed, problem. Any expansion would threaten the use and livability of adjacent properties. Any expansion would threaten the health of county residents. Any expansion would be an embarrassment of Benton County.

I strongly oppose the conditional use permit (CUP) application for expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill, and urge you to deny Application LU-24-027.

Kyle Bernheim, MD, PhD