

**From:** [Debbie P](#)  
**To:** [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding LU-24-027, the application to expand the landfill  
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Dear Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd,

My name is Debbie Palmer and my address is 37340 Moss Rock Drive, Corvallis OR 97330.

Please make note of the date I am submitting this testimony, as it is pertinent to what I will be telling you. Today is August 28, 2025... just shy of a month after the Planning Commission's unanimous denial of LU-24-027 was made official (on July 29th).

I want to bring to your attention what Republic Services is up to.

Republic Services makes a LOT of money off of this landfill. In fact, we have reason to believe the Coffin Butte Landfill *is their most profitable landfill in the United States*.

They claim they are “dedicated to the community.” Their actions do not reflect their words, however.

You would think if they were truly dedicated to their community, they would spend some of their huge profits to *proactively clean up their operation* — not just do the minimum they can get away with (thanks to weak oversight by Federal and State agencies) so as to avoid fines/penalties.

But no — instead, they are pouring money into greenwashing and “astroturfing” to try to get this expansion.

As reported by KLCC News they've hired big-gun PR influencer/consultant Rebecca Tweed of Tweed Strategies to develop a slick “astroturf” campaign to try to drum up support for expansion. (Astroturf = fake grassroots. *It's not grassroots if you have to pay people to make it happen!*) They are calling it “Benton Clean and Strong”, and spinning it as a “coalition of residents, families, business owners, and local leaders who care about smart, long-term solutions for our community.” Well guess what: said “coalition” doesn't actually exist yet. They call it a “collaboration with 'named partners' and Republic Services”... but *there are no named partners yet*. They are aggressively trying to change that though, targeting Chambers of Commerce and local and regional politicians (city councils, mayors, representatives, etc) to try to get them to “sign on” to be part of their “coalition” so that they can name-drop (before you in the hearing, presumably) all the “supporters” they have for expansion.

\*\*\* The domain for their website was only purchased July 31st... *two days after the Planning Commission denied their application*. \*\*\*

I think it is important that you are aware of this tactic. This is not the behavior of a company that truly cares about the community, it is the behavior of a company that only cares about the profits they can make.

This kind of behavior has also happened/is happening at other Republic Services landfills across the country - their Westlake landfill in Bridgeton, Missouri and Middle Point Landfill in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to name a few.

This is what they do: they gaslight their communities instead of fixing their problems. A spin doctor is cheaper than meaningful change.

Think about it: this landfill is SO profitable that they'll pull out all the stops to get this expansion, so they can keep it going and then expand more in the future, rather than do the right thing and be good stewards of what they have and work with the community towards closure once their currently permitted space is full.

Please, commissioners - do the right thing for your community: deny this expansion. There ARE more economical and environmentally superior alternatives to landfilling waste at Coffin Butte. Republic Services is obligated to take Benton County's waste through 2040 per their 2020 Landfill Franchise Agreement with you, so there IS time to figure this out without expansion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Palmer