

**From:** [Martha Truninger](#)  
**To:** [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#); [Martha Truninger](#)  
**Subject:** LU-24-027  
**Date:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 2:19:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Dear Benton County Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd,

I strongly OPPOSE the expansion of the landfill (LU-24-027) and urge you to uphold your Planning Commission's unanimous denial of this application for the following reasons:

1. Air quality is impaired due to the dust and gases that are admitted from the landfill. I frequently bike in the woods in the Soap Creek valley and on Soap Creek Road. The dust and gases which are admitted from the landfill will only grow with the expansion and cause increased exposure during biking excursions in the area. The increased exposure will keep me from enjoying the area. I am also an avid gardener and worry about dust settling on my vegetables and contaminating my soil. These are all violations of BCC 53.215 (1).
2. Water Quality of the Willamette is impaired for everyone who uses the river. I kayak on the river and know that the expansion of the landfill will increase the amount of leachate that will be dumped into the river. This increase will deter me from spending time on the river because of the increase exposure to the toxins (PFAS and heavy metals). The activity of dumping leachate violates BBC 53.215 (2) and Benton County Comprehensive Plan policies 5.1.2 and 5.2.1.
3. The methane leaks from the landfill that have been found by the EPA inspections are unacceptable. This is cause for concern both from a climate change perspective and from a fire hazard perspective. The methane leaks could spark a fire and result in a major forest fire and a toxic plume of smoke. Expansion of the landfill will only exacerbate methane creation. This reduces the enjoyment of living in the area close to Coffin Butte and violates 60.220 (b)
4. Expanding the landfill will reduce air and water quality which has a very serious possibility of reducing the quality of life in this part of the valley and reducing our property values. This is of great concern to me and violates BCC 53.215 (1).
5. When driving home behind a Republic Services truck, the truck began spewing trash on the road. It was surprising and concerning that the trash would hit our car and other cars, precipitating an accident. I have included a photo to show how egregious this is, causing trash which is dangerous and unsightly.
6. The expansion of the landfill will erode the quality of life for myself and my family. Because of the unchecked pollution that it will cause it violates the Land Conservation and Development Commission's statewide planning goal 6 which states "Air, Water and Land Resources Quality: To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water and land resources of the state". Specifically, the expansion violates the Benton County Comprehensive plan 6.1.2.
7. There are many alternatives to dumping trash. Developing an Integrated Waste Management and Resource Recovery plan is critical to meet this time when the reduction of methane and toxic waste is paramount to protecting the environmental health of all life in Benton County.

