

From: Susan Dornfeld
To: Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals
Subject: Testimony regarding LU-24-027
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:14:33 PM
Attachments: landfill gas plume.pdf

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TO: Benton County Commissioners

FROM: Susan Dornfeld, 6005 NW Vineyard Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330

This testimony is about LU-24-027, the application to expand Coffin Butte Landfill.

I strongly oppose the proposed expansion, and I urge you to deny application LU-24-027.

The proposed expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill (the landfill) would violate BCC 53.215 (1), which states: "The proposed use does not seriously interfere with uses on adjacent property, with the character of the area, or with the purpose of the zone." The character of the surrounding area is small farms, public recreation and rural residential, which rely on clean air, clean water, and low noise levels.

I live over seven miles from the landfill. Gases from the landfill negatively affect my health; when there is a temperature inversion my eyes burn, my throat hurts, and I have headaches. An inversion can last a week or more. This interferes with daily activities in my neighborhood like dog-walking, hiking, gardening, and children playing outdoors. Expansion of the landfill would further degrade air quality and impair public health.

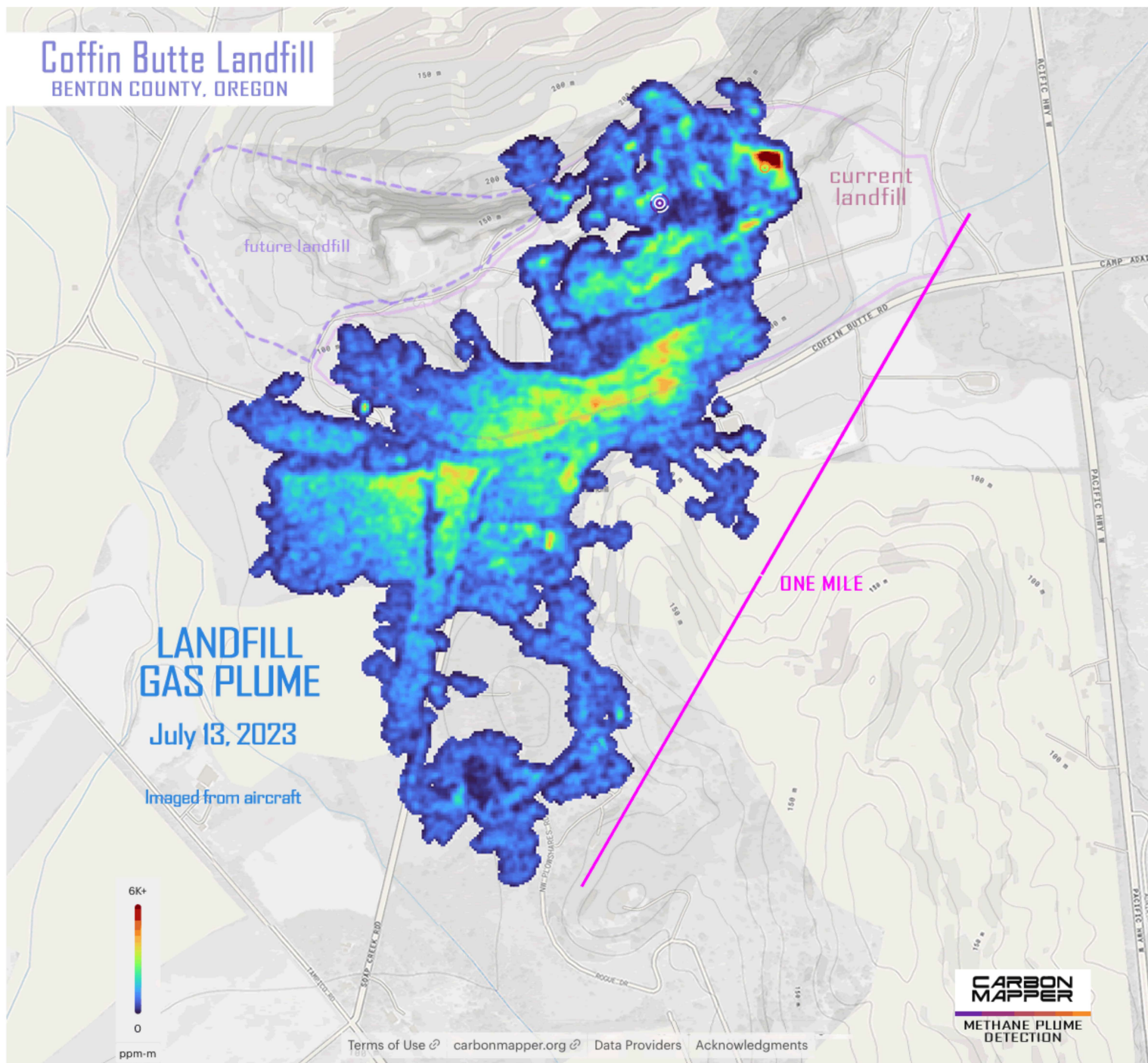
Expansion of the landfill would include excavating with explosives for up to six years. This would be a major disturbance for residents, drivers on Highway 99W, and wildlife in the surrounding area. EE Wilson Wildlife Area is adjacent to the landfill, and offers wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing. How can these activities be enjoyed with poor air quality, explosives, trash along the roadside, and increasing garbage truck traffic?

I know that methane and other greenhouse gases are released from the landfill, because I have seen a map of the landfill gas plume, which is about a mile in length. I have attached a copy of the map, and you can see more information at https://data.carbonmapper.org/register/?location=Coffin+Butte+Road%2C+Corvallis%2C+Oregon+97330%2C+US&details=CH4_6A_500m_-123.23207_44.70070%3Fstatus%3Dnot_deleted#11.88/44.70214/-123.21962.

The landfill emits 1.4 metric tons of methane per hour. This is 10.4 times greater than 100 kg/hr, which is a "super emitter event" under guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In January this year, the EPA initiated an action against the landfill. This strongly suggests that the EPA has cause to believe that the applicant is misrepresenting its environmental compliance.

In July, the Benton County Planning Commission unanimously rejected the application to expand the landfill. The commission carefully considered more than twenty hours of oral testimony and over 2,400 documents and written testimonies before making the decision.

Benton County should invest in protecting residents, outdoor recreation, clean air and water, high tech, and higher education -- and SHOULD NOT expand a landfill that is already a huge visual blight and perpetuates pollution. Thank you for considering my testimony.



Source: carbonmapper.org