

**LU-24-027 IN-PERSON TESTIMONY
SUBMITTAL COVER SHEET**

Received From: Shelley Su

Date: 9/25/2025

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BOC ID: Boc1

IDENTIFIER: T0062

18 September 2025

Benton County Board of Commissioners
P. O. Box 3020
Corvallis, OR 97339

Re: Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion

Dear Commissioners Wyse, Shepherd and Malone:

I am writing to vehemently oppose the proposed Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL) expansion. The Benton County Planning Commission listened to volumes of testimony and poured over reams of documents before coming to the UNANIMOUS decision to deny Republic Services their request.

As a PhD toxicologist, a cancer researcher, and a former EPA employee I am well versed in the enormity of mismanagement that has occurred at Coffin Butte under the auspices of Republic Services (RS), and the serious potential health consequences we may be facing as a result.

- 1) RS has refused salaries to union workers and given raises to non-union workers only. This flies in the face of the mandate as written on the Benton County webpages extolling the county's support for unionization.
- 2) RS has denied workers the proper safety/protection equipment they need.
- 3) RS failed to notify workers that they were being exposed to GASEOUS PFAS chemicals, which are carcinogens that cannot be expelled from the body. Their ongoing exposure to methane is already concern enough.
- 4) RS failed utterly in carrying out routine maintenance of the landfill to prevent extremely dangerous fires and explosions from erupting from poorly maintained methane emissions. In addition, they misled the public about the concentrations and dangers of said emissions, claiming they did not reach levels required for explosive events. This could not be further from the truth. In fact, the failure to control emissions at CBL has caught the attention of the EPA, which is about to rule the CBL a SUPER-FUND SITE. We are perhaps one lightning strike away from, not only a tremendous explosion, but from an underground fire that literally cannot be put out and may burn for years, spewing toxic waste throughout the valley.

It has LONG been known that, in the long term, Benton County could not continue to accept trash from everyone in the known universe - it is not sustainable. It has also long been known that a final site in the desert of Central Oregon will be the ultimate solution for our trash, as low moisture and little rainfall will generate the least PFAS-ridden liquids to process, and will greatly minimize exposures to the public. Trucking our waste, or hauling it by train is going to be expensive, and people in the valley will inevitably have to come to terms with that.

Wasting time putting band-aids on Super-Fund sites is not forward-thinking, not sustainable, it is very dangerous, and it is direct opposition to Benton County's many governing principles - that of providing a safe, clean and pleasant environment for all the citizens of Benton County.

I am also seriously disturbed by the fact that, instead of cleaning up their messes, improving their procedures and making the landfill safer for workers and the air quality safer, not only for the citizens of Benton County, but for the safety of the environment as well, RS has chosen to waste time and money on publicity campaigns. Ask yourself - is this the best use of the money we pay Republic Services? I think not. Does it reflect any level of caring for our community or the environment they have created? I think not.

I urge you to vote NO to any further expansions of the Coffin Butte Landfill. If we had not allowed Republic Services to accept trash from all these different cities, our landfill would have served us for the next 100 years. Instead, we have perhaps five years of usability left. We need to address our FUTURE needs now - not kick the can down the road and suddenly be left with a crisis situation with our trash, or even worse, an unprecedented environmental disaster.

Sincerely,



Shelley Su, PhD

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Re: Coffin Butte Expansion Written Testimony
97339-3020 Be Considered For Appeal