

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

Received From: Tremaine Arkley

Date: 9/26/2025

Email: Not provided

Phone: Not provided

Address: 9775 Hultman Road

City, State, Zip: Independence, OR, 97351

FOR BOC OFFICE STAFF USE ONLY

BOC ID: Boc 1

IDENTIFIER: T0065

Benton County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 3020
Corvallis, OR 97339

September 18, 2025

Re: LU-24-027 application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill

Dear Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd,

My wife Gail and I live on 24 acres in Polk County. 15 of those acres are a fruit and vegetable farm, Arkley Farm, and we have owned this property since 1975. My farmland is zoned EFU, and has Class 1 soil, i.e. the best (and to keep it that way I have always farmed organically; no chemical inputs, no sprays).

My farm is in Independence - about 2 miles north of the Buena Vista Ferry, if you know where that is. If you don't: we're a little over 7.5 miles *as the crow flies* from Republic Service's Coffin Butte Landfill (over 10 miles by road).

I keep hearing that Republic Services' odor consultant claims it is highly unlikely that anyone would smell the dump from such a distance.

Well I am writing to tell you for a fact I can smell the stench from here, over 7 miles away. And I know it is dump stench I am smelling, because I know what the dump smells like up close whenever I drive by it - and that is definitely what I smell here on my farm at times. There is a dairy a few miles Southwest of us that we sometimes smell too, but there is no comparison. A dairy just smells like cows and manure... whereas the dump stench is indescribably bad.

We used to smell it only intermittently, but lately we have been smelling it more often.

At times, the stench is very strong at our farm. It's so strong at times that we are afraid to go out and plant vegetables in our raised beds, or do our harvesting, or go out and mow, for fear of what's in that stench mixed with the air we are breathing. How many toxins are we absorbing through our skin? The smell even gets into our clothing and hair. What is coating our fruits and vegetables? We don't know, but the more we learn about what all is in the landfill gas that leaks out of the Coffin Butte dump, the greater is our fear. We are concerned on behalf of the people who work for us too. They should not be subject to these unknowns either.

This is an undue burden and definitely interferes with our farming operation. It is a problem that is bad enough with the dump as it exists already, but it will only get worse if you allow this landfill to expand. Please do not let that happen.

Please uphold your Planning Commission's unanimous denial. Deny LU-24-027.

Sincerely,



Tremaine Arkley
9775 Hultman Rd
Independence, OR 97351

• Benton County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 3020 [Corvallis, OR](#) 97339

Dear Commissoioners

Wise, Malone and Shepherd

1. L0 8 As a member of our Willamette community since 1975 I want to share with you some of my local
2. activities. I want to request that you uphold your Planning Commisson's unanimous denial Deny LU-24-027.

Tremaine Arkley 9775 Hultman Road, Independence OR 97351

Past member of the Board of Directors of the Greenbelt Land Trust in Corvallis.

Past member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Applied Ecology in Corvallis.

Past member president and founder of the Luckiamute Watershed Council

Past member and president of the Central District 13J School Board Independence/Monmouth.

Past Board member and president of Western Oregon University's Smith Fine Arts Series.

Member and Past president of the Central Lions Club Independence Monmouth.

Founder and manager of the Willamette Habitat Restoration fund which provides funds to support various restoration projects in the Willamette Valley such as USFWS projects on their

Refuges such as Basket Slough and others. These private dollars we provide enable them to use them as matches to secure other dollars for their projects. We also fund various tribal

Nature Center

projects at the Ankeny Wildlife Refuge.

Tremaine Arkley

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9775 Hultman Rd.
Independence, OR 97351

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Benton County Board of Commissioners
PO Box ~~302~~
3020 Corvallis, OR 97339

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