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To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for 10/22 Landfill Hearing
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:43:26 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-puvzwtak.png](#)
[Public Testimony in Support of the Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion Elise Yarnell Hollamon.pdf](#)

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Thanks!

Elise

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Public Testimony in Support of the Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion

From Elise Yarnell Hollamon, Newberg City Council President

Chair and Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I want to begin by acknowledging the obvious truth: no one celebrates the idea of a landfill. In a perfect world, we would generate less waste, recycle more effectively, and eliminate the need for such facilities. But the reality is that landfills remain a necessary service. Our responsibility as leaders is to ensure this service is provided in the most cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally sound way possible. Republic Services has demonstrated that this regional model can and does work.

As an elected Democrat in a rural community, I am compelled to address the glaring gap in our state's political dialogue. Too often, in the name of principle, we fail to acknowledge the struggles of working families. While I share the values of environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability, I cannot ignore the very real impact that shortsighted decisions have on ordinary Oregonians. This is not the moment—when our state continues to raise taxes and the federal government reduces funding—to add additional costs to working families, eliminate family-wage jobs, or grandstand on environmental values without offering a shovel-ready replacement solution for managing solid waste.

This decision is bigger than Benton County. It is a regional issue with regional consequences. Families in Yamhill County, Marion County, Linn County, Polk County, and beyond depend on affordable and reliable solid waste management. For the Benton County Commissioners to reject this expansion as though it is solely a local matter is irresponsible. It ignores the regional interdependence of our communities and the working families who will ultimately pay the price.

If we are serious about climate change and about protecting our environment, then we should be equally serious about reducing the economic burden placed on working people. True leadership requires balancing principle with practicality. In the absence of a clear, immediate, and feasible alternative to landfill use, the expansion at Coffin Butte is the most responsible path forward.

I urge you to make the decision that supports working Oregonians, preserves family-wage jobs, and ensures our region continues to manage waste in the most responsible way possible.

Respectfully,

Elise Yarnell Hollamon

Newberg City Council President
