

From: [Faye Yoshihara](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 - Testimony in Opposition of CUP
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:23:50 AM
Attachments: [CUP LU-24-027 Faye Yoshihara BoC Appeal.pdf](#)

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Dear Benton County Appeals Hearing Staff, Attached please find my testimony, in PDF format, in opposition of LU-24-027, expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Faye Yoshihara
37461 Soap Creek Rd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

3 October 2025

Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners,

I oppose the conditional use permit (CUP) application for expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill LU-24-027, due to its impacts on the character of the area (Benton County code 53.215).

I am a property owner living on Soap Creek Road and submitted testimony during the 2021 CUP application by Republic Services. At that time, I was most concerned about the closure of our primary evacuation road and the negative impacts on livability of Soap Creek Valley with increased “dump days” with its obvious air pollution, litter and possible (now documented) soil and water pollution. As small woodland owners, I could not fathom that forest conservation zoned land should be used for a landfill. It goes completely against the purpose of the zone, as indicated in Benton County Code criteria 53.215. Since that time, I have learned more about the history and Republic Services’ current practices at Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL) and have participated in efforts to quantify and document health and safety concerns. My experiences over the past four years leaves me gravely concerned about allowing the landfill to expand and exacerbate these issues for future generations of Benton County residents. Allowing this expansion would be kicking the can down the road, which is irresponsible.

During the 2025 CUP application, I testified at the Planning Commission hearings, specifically addressing Republic Services’ consultant, SCS Engineering, odor analysis which was completely contrary to our lived experience of dump days. Their model applied wind direction, but did not consider the many other factors that affect what we smell in Soap Creek Valley. Beyond wind direction, we have cloud cover, elevation, topography, temperature, humidity, all interacting with wind and human caused air currents. In a former life, I was a sensory scientist at a global consumer products company working with human panels to discriminate odor profiles for the purposes of claim substantiation. I understand the sensitivity of the human olfactory system. To confirm this, I am submitting examples of data we collected that confirm the obnoxious levels of landfill stench, including hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), we have smelled near the Soap Creek Schoolhouse, 4 miles southwest of CBL. Republic Services used an assumed value of **36 ppm** for their Title V permit. This is a burden on our community. The EPA and even SCS Engineering’s webinar "Staying Ahead of Odor Management at Solid Waste Facilities" state that the public recognizes H₂S at **2 – 3 ppb** (billion). Our data shows 250 - 500 ppb, or 0.25 - 0.50 ppm, mixed with other foul-smelling molecules.

I experience the vagaries of how landfill stench moves on my daily jogs. At mid-valley and tucked behind a knoll at 500 feet, we get both PRC (compost) and CBL (dump) smells. At the bottom of our ¼ mile driveway, at 400 feet, dump odors are more frequent. I look outside for inversion or cloud banks, which direction they are moving and the color to decide which way to go. Sometimes I get a visual cue, other times not.

I have a good nose, so I only report to DEQ when the odors are nauseating and only at my house. One DEQ report attached Republic Services investigation that said nothing was smelled by their staff,

however a dead skunk was seen on the road. Soon after, I reported on a smelly blast from PRC, so they know, we know the difference between compost, landfill stench and skunk. In sensory science, there is a condition, called **anosmia or smell blindness**, that can be caused by over exposure to a particular molecule. One known cause is exposure to hydrogen sulfide which causes paralysis of the olfactory nerve. For this reason, Republic Services' practice of having their employees monitor for odor complaints is unreliable.

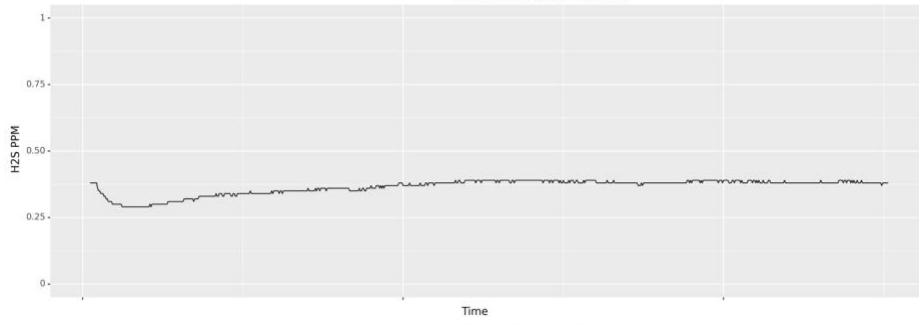
I've heard "acid, chemical, vomit, feces, bad fart, rotten cabbage, sulfur, ammonia and nail polish remover" amongst other descriptors. While each person may perceive differently, our noses are far more accurate than Republic Services consultant's analysis. Odors are also disbursed by human caused air currents. I am submitting still images (video also available) of garbage trucks tipping their loads, creating swirling clouds drifting in multiple, shifting directions over time. Near neighbors know when a leachate truck is being filled. Far neighbors smell the smallest molecules, including hydrogen sulfide, that stay airborne for much, much longer. True, one mercaptan in landfill stench is also that of skunk, but neighbors know the difference.

I recognize that Benton County gains significant revenues from Coffin Butte Landfill, but it is minor compared to the long-term liabilities that are piling up faster than the garbage at the dump. Your discretionary decision (Benton County Code 53.210) should not come at the expense of today and tomorrow's Benton County residents. From the far-reaching implications of methane and other air pollutants to the toxic leachate diluted and released into the Willamette River to emerging issues of PFAS forever chemicals, including in sewage sludge applied to farmland; together seriously interfere with the character and quality of life in our community and all those who live downstream (criteria 53.215). Landfills are yesterday's technology and better solutions are being advanced in many municipalities. Allowing Republic Services to continue to expand, especially in such an ill-suited geography, delays their adoption of new technologies and practices while the impacts on our health, safety and climate continue to grow.

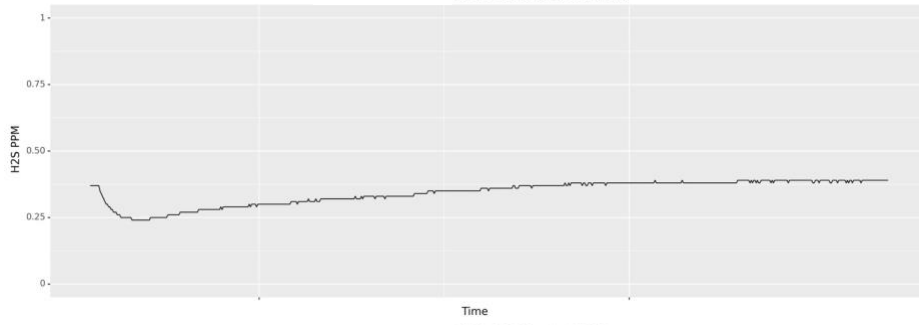
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my concerns about the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion application. Break the cycle by ensuring no future attempt can be made to grow this industrial sized facility. The next generation of Benton County residents will live with the discretionary decision you take now. Please use your authority to uphold the Planning Commission's unanimous denial of Application LU-24-027.

Sincerely,
Faye Yoshihara
37461 Soap Creek Rd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

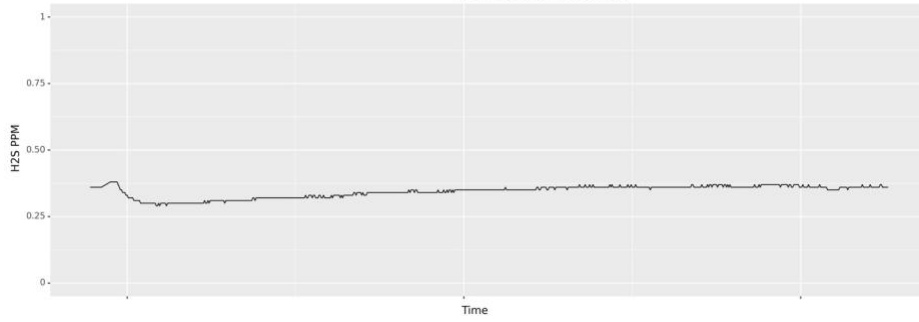
Feb 8 10:15am to 10:30am



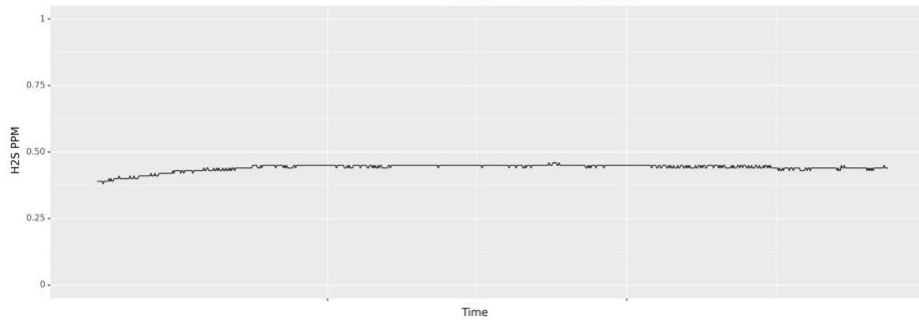
Feb 8 11:00am to 11:10am



Feb 9 11:20am to 11:30am



Feb 15 10:10am to 10:25am







CORRECTION: Dates should be 01/31/2023