

From: [Maya Abels](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 12:08:35 PM

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Dear Board of Commissioners:

I voted for all three of you because I expect you to represent the community and listen to the people who voted for you.

This email is in reference to **LU-24-027**. **Your Planning Commission listened to exhaustive testimony and read hundreds of letters from people in the community. All of the people who sat through hours of meetings to testify, except for three people, agreed that the County should not accept the Landfill Expansion. The Planning Commission invested hundreds of hours pouring over the county's reports and listening to the community and to Republic Services. They made a unanimous decision to halt the expansion of the Landfill. Please respect their work, listen to your community, analyze the data, and Reject the expansion. If you care about the health of the community, you will follow through and act properly. The County has never been able to monitor any conditions imposed on Republic Services in the past and with limited resources today, it's doubtful that you could expect Republic Services to make any changes you might recommend.**

It's alarming that Republic has many ongoing violations that have been brought to their attention through this process. Instead of investing any money to fix the problems, they are spending lots of money on two public relations campaigns and manipulating words to make the issue seem like this expansion is good for Benton County and the surrounding communities.

I'm in favor of a healthy community. I want to believe that you are too. Benton County contributes only seven percent of the waste going into the Landfill. Seven percent! This is a fact that won't be reduced even without the expansion. With the expansion, it's conceivable that the percentage of waste from Benton County will be even less.

This Landfill is toxic; it produces leachate and has significant methane emissions. The water treatment system can't handle the leachates being produced. And because of where the Landfill is situated, any toxins easily get released into the groundwater since there is not much space between the ground and the groundwater. (Republic's facility across the Columbia River has over 50 feet of clay that can absorb the toxins.)

I like to bicycle and hike in MacDonald Forest. There are days when I can smell the Landfill. I can only imagine what a problem this is for the neighbors!

Already there are trucks delivering waste every 90 seconds that the Landfill is open. This has made bicycling on Highway 99 a significant problem. Also this level of traffic contributes to congestion and emissions that further denigrate Benton County. This is what exists today and will likely never be reduced but only increased. Truck traffic like this must be held at its current levels.

You have staff and resources to generate better ideas about how to add a few million dollars to your budget. This expansion should not be the reason.

The County invested in significant resources for the Benton County 2040 Thriving Communities report. Spoiling our air and water, increasing truck congestion isn't among the core values.

Please act in the right direction and oppose the expansion. Please demonstrate that you care about the health and well-being of our community and just say NO.

Sincerely,

Maya Abels, your loyal supporter

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