

From: [Priya Thakkar](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Uphold Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 2:42:46 PM

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Dear Benton County Commissioners Wyse, Malone, and Shepherd,

My name is Priya Thakkar and I live at 38987 Arena Rd. I am a parent, a flower farmer, a social worker, pet and livestock owner.

I am writing because I strongly oppose any expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill and urge you to uphold your Planning Commission's unanimous denial of LU-24-027, Republic Services' application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. The Planning Commission carefully considered all evidence provided by the applicant, as well as considerable testimony, and concluded unanimously that the application did not meet the required Burden of Proof. While my property is over 2 miles from the landfill site, we are able to hear, see, and smell the landfill. We are regularly reminded of the landfill's proximity to our home and would consider ourselves to be an adjacent property, something has only been loosely defined in previous hearings regarding the landfill expansion.

The proposed expansion would **seriously interfere with the character of the surrounding area** and impose **an undue burden on public resources**, in violation of Benton County Code 53.215 (1) and (2). Specifically, this expansion raises major concerns about:

- **Air and water pollution** threaten our local ecosystems and community health. My family has a well that can be disrupted by the proposed expansion that would disrupt the function of the area's water. Mining a huge hole around the new proposed site can affect water levels in the area, potentially reducing the water levels and causing our well to run dry, or causing our well water to be contaminated, affecting our ability to provide water for our garden, water for our animals, and water for our family. We rely on water for just about every facet of our life in this area, so this would seriously interfere with the character of the area and cause an undue burden on the local residents. **This clearly interferes with uses of nearby property and character of the area BCC 53.215 (1)**
- **Traffic increases** that pose safety risks on nearby roads and pathways. I regularly drive on Coffin Butte Road for my morning and evening commute and in the short time that I am on the road, there is an immense amount of traffic, making it unsafe for passenger vehicles. Garbage trucks frequently pull out in front of my vehicle, without regard for the public driving on the road. In addition, the amount of garbage being hauled up and down 99W has created a massive amount of trash and garbage along the highway that flies out

of the garbage trucks, often all the way to Monmouth. Not only is it pollution and an eyesore, but Republic does not appear to ever clean up the road garbage. **The proposed expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill will place an undue burden on public facilities violating BCC 53.215 (2).**

- **The ongoing appeals process and attempt to continue to expand the landfill places an undue Burden on public resources.** The community of Benton County fought hard against the landfill expansion in 2021 and again this past Spring. Honestly, it is exhausting. The inability for Republic to take no for an answer to something that the community is clearly opposed to is yet another example of a big business attempting to take advantage of a community that is overwhelmed at a time when news, politics, war continues to perpetuate a feeling of hopelessness and powerlessness. I am horrified that county resources continue to be poured into a giant corporation that prioritizes profits over community care. I have been harassed by Republic's "astroturfing" campaign to drum up community support by feeding the public falsehoods about the dump expansion. Enough is enough and I do not want my tax dollars furthering the interests of Republic over that of Benton County. **The proposed expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill has and will continue to place an undue burden on public facilities violating BCC 53.215 (2).**
- **Odor and noise issues** that degrade quality of life for residents and visitors. I live approximately 2 miles from the landfill and there are days when I am unable to spend time outside because the stench of the dump is so severe that it makes me nauseous. I have filed DEQ complaints and the response has been a message relayed from Republic to DEQ saying that there were no odors and their systems are working as they should. If I can smell it at my home, things are not working as they should. We know through past DEQ investigations that their methane emissions have been observed to be massively above the allowable amount, leaving me with little faith that they are monitoring emissions or controlling odors as they should. In addition, I am able to hear trucks and their accompanying beeping (brakes) at all times of day from my backyard (again, 2 miles away!), as well as see the light from the landfill. **This clearly interferes with uses of nearby property and character of the area BCC 53.215 (1)**
- **Negative impacts on wildlife, recreation, and property values.** There is a large herd of elk and a considerable population of Great Blue Herons in the area. The Great Blue Herons used to nest in the stand of trees next to the proposed new dump site ("expansion" according to Republic, but it is actually an entirely new site, separated by a road). Due to the work that Republic has put into their new dump site, and the noise, traffic, and increased pollution, the Great Blue Herons have abandoned their rookeries in that stand of trees and have moved across 99W. I fear that the expansion will further drive out the Great Blue Herons, who are beloved in this area. **BCC**

53.215 (1): The proposed use does not seriously interfere with uses on adjacent property, with the character of the area, or with the purpose of the FC zone, as well as the Benton County Comprehensive Plan policy 5.9.4: In making land use decisions, Benton County shall protect identified sensitive wildlife habitat types and wildlife corridors from adverse impacts.

- **Long-term climate and environmental consequences** for future generations. Benton County has said numerous times since the landfill's creation that a landfill in the Willamette Valley is not environmentally sound and that it should be phased out and shut down. Rather than expanding the dump and allowing Republic's tonnage cap to be lifted, increasing the amount of garbage (and pollution and smell and noise and traffic) into our beautiful community, we should be looking for alternatives to this landfill and reducing our reliance on Republic. **Deny the expansion application using BCC 55.215 (1) or BCC 60.220 (1).**

The proposed expansion does nothing to align with *Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative*. This expansion undermines our shared goals for responsible environmental stewardship, prioritizing public health, and sustainable waste management.

I believe Benton County should invest in waste reduction, recycling, and circular economy solutions, not expanding landfills that perpetuate pollution and place a long-term burden on local communities! Please prioritize the well-being of our community and not Republic's profits.

Please reject LU-24-027. Thank you for your consideration and for protecting the health and future of Benton County.

Sincerely,
Priya Thakkar
Corvallis, OR 97330