

From: [Liv N. Gifford](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: WEB FORM SUBMISSION - LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 3:43:28 PM

Subject of Testimony: I Oppose the Expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill

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Written Testimony:

I am writing to oppose the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. I am a resident of Benton County, a parent, and member of the faculty at Linn-Benton Community College, where I teach Public Health.

It concerns me greatly that our small county is the dumping grounds for so much of Western Oregon, and we are shouldering more than our share of environmental concerns as a result. I am especially concerned about leachate, including heavy metals, carcinogenic industrial solvents, and PFAS, as well as reports that methane from the landfill far exceeds regulatory limits. Less than ten percent of the garbage dumped in Coffin Butte comes from Benton County, and the quantity of waste deposited at Coffin Butte has been increasing steadily over the years. None of this seems fair or worth the risk.

It is incredibly irresponsible and short-sighted of Benton County to continue to operate a landfill in an area of the state that receives so much rainfall. Our water treatment facilities are not equipped to treat leachate, and all downstream communities – both urban and rural – should be alarmed. If we do not halt the expansion of Coffin Butte, we may end up with an incredibly expensive and highly toxic Superfund situation.

In this era of climate change, we need to be curbing environmental hazards, not expanding them. Under the current administration, environmental protections are under attack. It is up to our community to protect our air, water, and soil quality for future generations. Landfill expansion goes against our sustainability goals, and the values Benton County claims to hold.

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