

From: [Miriam Landman](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Reject the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion for good
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 4:37:54 PM

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Dear Benton County Commissioners,

As a resident of Benton County, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.

The dangerous levels of methane emissions (which are a threat to public health and to our climate), the heightened fire risk that the landfill poses to the surrounding community (which could cause a wildfire that would spread quickly through near-by dry grass fields and forests), and the toxic leachate risks to the groundwater and watershed are just a few of the many reasons that this landfill should not be expanded. (If anything, it should be shrunk or capped at its current size, and remediated.)

Per Republic Services' own reporting, at least 30% of the landfill gas is not being captured by their gas-to-energy system. Methane is the most potent greenhouse gas — far more potent than carbon dioxide — and as such, it should be strictly regulated and minimized.

The odors and environmental hazards from this landfill are already negatively affecting the surrounding community, and are reducing the property values of homes in that otherwise beautiful part of the County. The hazards also put wildlife in that area at risk.

Less than 7% of the landfill yearly intake of municipal solid waste comes from Benton County. Our county cannot and should not have to take the waste from so many other counties.

The issue of landfill pollution (particularly methane pollution) has been covered in national news recently. For example, see this article: Recent Study Finds 'Garbage Lasagnas' Forming in Open Landfills Across US Release Staggering Amounts of Air Pollution:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/recent-study-finds-garbage-lasagnas-101000211.html>

And the Coffin Butte Landfill itself has been getting national, negative coverage. I've seen it covered by NPR, High Country News, and Canary Media, among other national publications. And a new film, Trash Town USA, is exposing this issue to a larger audience. This is not the kind of publicity that you should want for our County. And your job is to protect the residents of our County.

If Republic Services will not operate within the terms of their contract with the County, their contract should be terminated.

Landfill expansion goes against our County's sustainability goals and the values Benton County claims to hold. Please do the right thing and reject Republic Services' appeal.

Thank you.

Miriam Landman

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