

From: [Zack Dahl](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Proponent for expansion
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Attachments: [Coffin Butte Written Testimony.docx](#)

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Hello,

Attached is written testimony in favor of the landfill expansion.

Thanks

Zack Dahl

To Whom It May Concern,

Oregon's landfills are recognized for their advanced and environmentally responsible waste management practices. These facilities are carefully engineered to contain waste securely and to manage byproducts such as leachate and greenhouse gas emissions generated during decomposition. This comprehensive approach enables a shared responsibility for waste disposal, benefiting Oregonians across the state.

Despite our progress, the United States continues to face a severe shortage of infrastructure for recycling, reuse, and waste reduction. As a result, landfills remain an essential component of our waste management system, providing safe and secure storage for non-recyclable materials.

Unfortunately, public sentiment often reflects a "not in my backyard" mentality, leading to the transportation of waste over long distances to rural communities. This practice does not eliminate the environmental impact—it simply relocates it. Regardless of location, landfills produce the same byproducts: leachate, off-gassing, groundwater movement. This reality applies just as much to facilities in eastern Oregon as it does to Coffin Butte in Benton County.

Closing a landfill like Coffin Butte raises serious logistical and environmental concerns. Transfer stations, which would likely be required to manage the rerouted waste, bring their own set of issues—noise, odors, bird activity, emissions, and frequent fires. Additionally, these facilities often require new land use applications, potentially reigniting the same community objections that landfills face today.

Benton County is expanding, and with population growth comes increased waste generation. That waste must go somewhere, and the most logical and efficient option remains Coffin Butte. If this facility is closed, the alternative is to transport waste through Portland to landfills along I-84. This would require multiple trucks to do the work of one, increasing emissions, road wear, and the overall carbon footprint. Ironically, many of these trucks would still pass through Benton County.

While the landfill expansion may draw opposition, it's critical to consider the broader impact. Should the voices of 135 to 300 opponents outweigh the needs of more than 500,000 solid waste and recycling ratepayers across the region? These ratepayers will ultimately bear the cost—through significantly higher fees and greater environmental consequences—if waste must be transported to distant facilities.

Shifting waste from one community to another does not solve environmental challenges; it compounds them. Your role as commissioner is to evaluate land use proposals based on facts, not public sentiment that may fall outside your scope of review.

This is a challenging decision. It may not be popular, but it is an opportunity to make a choice that benefits hundreds of thousands of Oregonians. With your leadership, and in partnership with regulatory agencies and Republic Services, we can modernize and improve Coffin Butte into one of the most environmentally sound landfills in the country—while continuing to develop new markets that reduce our reliance on landfilling in the long term.

I respectfully urge you to support the continued operation and responsible expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.

Sincerely,

Zack Dahl

President

Dahl Disposal Service Inc.