

From: [Rich Kuehn](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027
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To Whom It May Concern,

Oregon has built a strong reputation for responsible, forward-thinking waste management. Our landfills are designed with care, engineered to safely contain waste and manage byproducts like leachate and greenhouse gases that form as materials break down. This system works because it shares responsibility statewide and protects both people and the environment.

Still, our country faces a major gap in recycling, reuse, and reduction infrastructure. Until that improves, landfills remain a necessary part of managing waste safely.

What often gets overlooked is how public opposition can shift the problem rather than solve it. When communities reject local landfills, waste simply travels farther to rural areas that were not asking for it. That does not remove the impact; it only relocates it. Whether it is Coffin Butte or a site in eastern Oregon, the same environmental factors exist: leachate, gas emissions, and groundwater movement.

If Coffin Butte were to close, the challenges would multiply. Transfer stations needed to reroute waste bring their own problems such as more noise, odor, birds, and fires. They also require new land use approvals, which often face the same resistance that landfill projects do.

Benton County continues to grow, and with that growth comes more waste. It has to go somewhere. The most practical, efficient, and environmentally sound option is to continue using Coffin Butte. Shutting it down would push waste north through Portland to landfills along the I-84 corridor, adding trucks, emissions, road wear, and costs. Ironically, many of those trucks would still pass through Benton County.

Yes, expansion raises concerns, but this decision affects more than a few hundred nearby residents. It impacts more than half a million Oregonians who rely on the solid waste system every day. If Coffin Butte closes, ratepayers across the region will pay more and see greater environmental impact from longer hauling distances.

Moving waste farther away does not make it disappear. It only makes the consequences worse. I ask that you base your decision on facts and long-term benefit, not short-term pressure.

This is not an easy choice, but it is the right one. With strong leadership and cooperation between local governments, regulators, and Republic Services, Coffin Butte can continue to evolve into one of the most environmentally advanced landfills in the country, while Oregon keeps building better recycling and waste reduction options for the future.

I respectfully urge your support for the continued operation and responsible expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.

Sincerely,

Rich Kuehn
Operations Manager
Dahl & Dahl, Inc.