

From: [Lee, Janet](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Cc: [Lee, Janet](#)
Subject: Oppose/Deny Landfill Appeal (LU-24-027)
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Dear Benton County Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to Republic Services' Conditional Use Permit application LU-24-027 to expand the Coffin Butte landfill. I strongly urged the Planning Commission to deny this application and I now strongly urge you to deny their appeal. I am disgusted that they have spent so much money on this appeal, which would have been better spent cleaning up the site, and that they have declared a "coalition" in their favour when community opposition is overwhelming.

Having read and listened to previous testimony and the current outpouring of public opposition to this appeal, I'm sure you are well aware of the many hazards associated with a landfill expansion: the ways it violates Benton County codes (BCC 53.215 [1] and [2]) by interfering with uses on adjacent property and the character of the area, as well as the ways it imposes undue burdens on the multiple community and services. I am VERY concerned about all these issues but would like to focus my opposition here on the environmental consequences of an expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill. However, before turning to this I would like to share something I just learned about that was not included in my previous written testimony. A colleague explained to me that she and her husband sold their beautiful property (home, horse barn, land) on Tampico Road area last year because of the sights, sounds, and air quality associated with their proximity to the expanding landfill. With a cancer diagnosis, they could not trust the safety of their well water or the air they were breathing. I asked her to consider sharing her testimony at the appeal hearing but she is a very private individual and declined. These are people who had built a home and lived for decades in this area. I found this very poignant and a perfect example of the way the landfill interferes with

uses on adjacent property and the character of the area. It also illustrates the environmental consequences of landfill expansion, which I turn to now.

First I am concerned about air quality and methane production produced by this facility. Second, my family lives within 5 miles of Coffin Butte landfill and we are concerned about the effects of toxic leachate on our well and water supply. This is also an issue for Corvallis residents on city water because the leachate from the landfill is processed at the city's water treatment centre and then released into the Willamette River. How could Benton County allow this kind of risk for its residents? Third, there is long term liability associated with community health and safety if Benton County allows this expansion. I'm sure you recognise how Republic Services have a record of ignoring and/or violating environmental regulations. Fourth, the Coffin Butte area contains diverse and vulnerable ecosystems. There is an elk herd that migrates here, including herons, bald eagles, and other wildlife that will be affected. Surely there is concern about these vulnerable populations as well respect for this outstandingly beautiful area that will be covered in trash.

Please vote against this appeal -- and thank you for your service.

Janet Lee

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