

**From:** [sushelley@aol.com](mailto:sushelley@aol.com)  
**To:** [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)  
**Subject:** Coffin Butte appeal decision  
**Date:** Monday, October 6, 2025 9:04:55 PM

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Dear Benton County Commissioners:

I am deeply disturbed in what I have been hearing lately throughout the community with regard to the "softening" of the County's opposition of the Coffin Butte Expansion. I am hoping that NONE of what I am hearing is true, but it comes from what I consider impeachable sources.

It is clear that the residents of the Coffin Butte area have been treated with little regard when it comes to considering the environmental and economic impacts this dump is having on them. It was my understanding, given that I have lived here more than 50 years, that the Benton County mandate is that all citizens are to be treated with equal respect. It says so multiple times across many areas of Benton County's web pages.

It is clear that continued use of the landfill violates the notion that we are supposed to be planning for the FUTURE of this county, not what will "get us through" the next couple of years.

It is clear that difficult decisions, many that may result in increased costs to Benton County residents, must be made with regard to the future of our waste disposal. It is NOT time for more band-aids.

It is clear that Republic Services has known since 2020 that the citizens of this county are not happy with the quality of the work being done at Coffin Butte. The EPA describes the attention to safety as "lax" and that the landfill is approaching super-fund status with respect to its danger to the environment and potential impact on local citizens. Republic Services has known for at least the last five years that Benton County's citizens were unhappy with the management of Coffin Butte. And yet, it appears in speaking with employees of the dump, that instead of Republic Services making a good-faith effort to improve the conditions at the dump, they instead have elected to do the opposite: to do an even worse job, to punish workers that complain, and to spend their recent time, effort and money in engaging in "publicity antics" instead of addressing the problems of Coffin Butte in a clear-eyed manner. In fact, that may be the most egregious problem of all.

It is clear that the citizens of Benton County did not sign up to be treated like sacrificial animals for the good of other parts of the state and region.

The decision of the Commission is clear: Coffin Butte must be closed as soon as possible. Benton County should be spending their time finding an alternative to our waste disposal needs. We all know what the inevitable decision must be. How is it is anyone's best interest to pass the buck???

I am urging the Commission to put their big-boy pants on and make the decision that must be made for the future of the citizens of this County.

We await your decision and hope you do what is best for the citizens of the county.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shelley Larsen-Su  
Corvallis, OR