

From: [kiko denzer](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Re: deny LU-24-027
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 9:50:07 AM

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TO: Commissioners Shepherd, Wyse, and Malone, of Benton County Oregon
FROM: Kiko Denzer, Philomath Oregon
DATE: 10/7/2025
RE: Further concerns regarding Republic Service's application to expand Coffin Butte Dump.

In their long and heavily appended response to the planning commission decision, the applicant addresses only a few issues where they have quantities of hard-to-understand data. It's a common and often effective tactic. Pages and pages of numbers from people with letters behind their names — "it must be right!"

Right? And who has the time and staff to verify, much less challenge, all that data?

In fact, however, the impacts addressed by the applicant (groundwater, fire, odor, and traffic sound) are the least of the public health concerns facing Benton County.

The applicant does not address PFAS (both in leachate as well as in groundwater and air), methane generation and its effect on climate, impact on wildlife, visual blight, economic impact (owners unable to sell their properties, developers avoiding dump sites, loss of recreational and agritourism revenues, etc.), impact on emergency escape routes in the event of a major fire, and other public health matters.

All of these pose significant burdens, and not only on our community, but on all the adjacent communities. And all have been extensively addressed by a large and growing group of citizens, including VNEQS, many of whose members are professionals with experience and standing in related fields.

The applicant's responses to statements from the planning commission rely on the applicant's own "expert" data. However, as Commissioner Lee suggested on the first page of the applicant's response, what if the applicant's data is wrong?

The county's obligation to the citizenry requires caution and care. If the county can't verify the applicant's data, and if citizen research and testimony not only challenge that data but extend into areas that the applicant has not addressed, the logical, moral, and legal course for the county is to err on the side of caution.

I respectfully request that the commissioners look at the big picture, and consider that the applicant's desire to expand the dump is inadequate motive for a decision with this much potential impact.

Concern for the health and well-being of the citizens of the county is not part of their application. They make this very clear when they say that Commissioner Lee's concern about high cancer rates "is entirely unsupported by any evidence in the record..." vague, and based on "conjecture or generalized fears."

The public record — locally, nationally, and internationally — is rife with well-documented examples of communities being poisoned by proximity to toxic disposal sites and/or toxic industries. To label as "conjecture" local knowledge of cancer cases and related concerns about known sources of known toxins is a clear dismissal of the very idea of "public health." For residents to feel insulted and angry in response would not be surprising.

The county has an obligation, as well as the power and authority, to re-frame the negotiation. If the county makes the health of the public their first priority, they can deny the application and work with Republic to address all the concerns and improve the management of waste — not only in Benton County, but statewide, and perhaps nationally.