

From: [BILL GELLATLY](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Opposition - Uphold the Planning Commission.
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Respectfully,

Bill Gellatly
2923 NW 13th Place
Corvallis, OR 97330

(503) 867-6514

Testimony in Opposition - Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion
Bill Gellatly – 2923 NW 13th Place – Corvallis 97330 – October 6, 2025

As a private citizen, my input was limited to being in favor of or in opposition to the requested Expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. I found this to be polarizing because it invites conflict over collaboration.

In my first Planning Commission testimony, I said that total PFAS compounds far exceeded the EPA's declaration of 4 parts per trillion by a factor of more than 1000. I said those concentrations called for attention, but nothing in Republic's testimony showed serious concern, rather it reflected utter disregard.

In my second testimony, I asserted a neutral and independent plan based on my analysis of the size of Republic's operations for collections based in Corvallis, sorted by type for recycling, yard debris or destined for the landfill. It quickly showed that the real appeal of the landfill operation was sufficient to draw materials from outside the region of either of two identified "regional agreements" under which the landfill contracts were granted. No wonder the rate of incoming waste has accelerated.

This is, then, my third testimony on the topic. As I reviewed my more than 200 pages of data collected for my own independent analysis, I found much that suggests that Coffin Butte has become the "wild west" – an unregulated, sorely undertested, and frankly unqualified operation in today's environment. To overlook Lane County's progress with current solid waste management economics and technology is to avoid reality.

I offer, therefore, a checklist for Benton County Commissioners about the Landfill Expansion.

Answer True or False, of course.

1. The county was ready to deal with Republic Services when the Oregon's DEQ and the EPA proved unable to bring corrective action regarding gaseous emissions.
2. Republic Services (a \$16 billion revenue company and #2 national player in the solid waste management business) is unable to afford either monitoring or controls to assure compliance with air quality requirements.
3. Republic is sufficiently funded to raise a large public relations effort to claim that they should be allowed to continue business in the same manner and in an expanded space.
4. If measured over the four-county area treated as a "region," Benton county alone will shoulder any default should Republic choose to abandon operations here, to sell to yet another unqualified firm, or default on their contractual rights to operate the landfill.
5. Republic's testimony on noise, odor and impact on traffic was clear and truthful.
6. Republic's use of subcontractors to extract rock, add to the existing site with explosives should be excluded from consideration in their "everyday operations."
7. Fees charged for dumping should not include the "unanticipated" impact of intentional dumping of regulated compounds or forever chemicals.
8. The land parcels listed in Republic's application account for less than 30% of their contiguous acreage surrounding the existing landfill, and hence show their motives for uncontrolled growth of the landfill.

You've had your hands full preparing yourselves for this last round of hearings. I ask that you answer one final question to your own satisfaction. Had Republic invested in current testing and control technology, rather than in glossy treatment of BCTT, the SMPP efforts, and a fancy PR firm, would they no longer be under the rueful eye of more than 1500 opponents?

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