

From: [The Roosevelt Society](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for Coffin Butte
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 11:36:34 AM
Attachments: [Written Testimony of Morgan and Colt Ross Edited.docx](#)

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Written Testimony of Morgan and Colt Ross

**Owners, Farmer's Helper, Harrisburg, Oregon
Benton County Commission Hearings – Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion
October 22–23, 2024**

Dear Commissioners,

Since 1984, our family has operated a butcher shop in Harrisburg, Oregon. For 40 years, we have provided mobile slaughter and custom meat processing across Linn, Lane, and Benton Counties. Today, we, Morgan and Colt Ross, proudly continue that family tradition.

One of the biggest challenges we face as a small business is waste disposal costs. We have been contracted with the same company out of Portland for decades — not just recently. For many years, this relationship worked well. We even received payment for product waste such as hides and guts, which provided tens of thousands of dollars in income annually. But in 2018, those payments stopped as market demands changed.

Now, there is no longer any demand for the byproducts of our work. Instead of being compensated, we have to pay thousands of dollars a month just to have our waste hauled away. We are the only butcher shop this far south that the Portland company still serves, largely because we've been willing to raise our prices and pass the added costs on to our customers — something most small businesses simply cannot do.

To make matters more difficult, state regulations prevent us from processing or composting our organic waste on our own property. That leaves us with only two options: pay steep prices to the Portland hauler or use Coffin Butte as our disposal site.

Now that Republic Services hauls our waste to Coffin Butte, we finally have an affordable, reliable, and predictable solution. If Coffin Butte cannot expand and continue operating at capacity, we risk going right back to the situation we faced before — skyrocketing fees, limited options, and financial pressure that small, rural businesses like ours simply cannot absorb.

For us, this decision is about being able to keep our doors open, serve our customers, and carry on a family business that has been part of Harrisburg for four decades. Affordable and accessible waste disposal truly makes the difference between stability and uncertainty.

We respectfully urge you to approve the expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill. Keeping disposal costs in check is vital not only for our operation, but for many other family-run businesses that depend on it to survive.

Thank you for considering the impact this decision will have on small, local businesses like ours.

**Sincerely,
Morgan and Colt Ross
Farmer's Helper
Harrisburg, Oregon**
