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To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
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o+ Benton County Board of Commissioners:

I wish to log my objections to the proposed/appealed CUP by Republic Services for the Coffin Butte Landfill.

What logic makes them think they can expand a landfill that was conditionally approved 50 years ago to the other side of the road just because they bought adjacent property? Have they done the state-required hydrogeology study for the current, let alone for the proposed expansion plan? Who confirmed that the wells dug to test leachate are to the state's specifications? In the years they have been operating the landfill have they done anything to minimize leachate other than dumping water to reduce dust and 'coincidentally' dilute samples? The Cascade Aquifer is unique to the Willamette Valley and should not be threatened with known or unknown toxins.

Local objections have focused on Republic Services' management to date and find it lacking in all the areas Republic touts as exemplary. Residents offer numbers and photographs; they offer just words. They have **not** been good conscientious neighbors. From previous testimony from Republic, it seems that if they do not monitor gas leaks and dust, they are not responsible for them.

My larger objections are how to manage an extractive private mega company when as a county, or even a state, 'we the people' have little influence, not to mention money, to enforce code violations. The company makes most of its money on dumping fees and has no incentive to reduce waste.

By its own admission, dump truck contents are not inspected. How can we be sure prohibited things such as hazardous or hospital waste are not being dumped as photos have shown? Republic, contrary to its rhetoric, is not compatible with Benton County, or even Oregon's mission and commitments to its citizens. An enlarged landfill operated as the current one is does not fulfill that obligation.

The relationship between Valley Landfills Inc. and Republic Services is unclear, especially now that the "Texas Two-step" is increasingly used by large corporations to minimize liability. If Valley Landfills declares bankruptcy, where does that leave Benton County? Will all the other counties pay for its continued maintenance costs?

Finally, many think that if this expansion is approved **WITH NO DUMPING LIMIT**, Republic will be back within a couple years with its original expansion proposal, especially if it makes all the "improvements" contained therein. Republic's proposal may be following the letter of the law for approval, which apparently is all the Commissioners are allowed to evaluate. That is unfortunate.

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