

From: [Marge](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Oppose Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 4:53:36 PM

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To: Benton County Commissioners

Dear Commissioners Wyse, Shepherd and Malone,

Please deny the Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion CUP application.

A landfill in our unsuitable soil and climate conditions is an environmental disaster that runs counter to our values and harms our community's economy and liveability.

I moved to Corvallis nearly 20 years ago because I loved everything about it—the college town culture, the outdoorsy and generous people, and the beautiful Oregon landscape.

What drew me most was the sense that people here value a kinship with the earth and consciously work to conserve resources for future generations. We're not perfect, but most of us strive to live with meaning and integrity. When I learned of the Core Values that Corvallis and Benton County residents articulated, I felt proud to be part of a community that shared my priorities.

Back in 2005, the landfill wasn't a major issue. But over time, it grew unchecked. Now the proposed expansion threatens not only the character of our area but also the very principles we claim to live by. It directly conflicts with BCC 207, and we lack data on what this landfill will ultimately cost Benton County. If the past is any guide, future residents will face enormous cleanup expenses once the inadequate and unenforceable environmental fund runs dry. That financial burden will severely undermine the County's ability to meet basic needs like utilities and infrastructure.

When I first moved here, I didn't know much about landfills, leachate, methane, or siting requirements. I didn't know that landfill emissions include PFAS, microplastics, and toxic vapors. But Republic Services knew. And despite that knowledge, they continued shipping more and more waste to this unsuitable location. They have not been good stewards. They have not been honest partners. They have broken trust with our community.

Now that we better understand how harmful landfills are—especially one like Coffin Butte, which is poorly maintained, poorly regulated, built on a steep hill on porous soils, parts of it beneath the water table, and located in a densely populated area—the idea of expansion is indefensible. In these conditions, the landfill generates excessive greenhouse gases and produces massive amounts of leachate that must be trucked away, only to end up in the Willamette River, poisoning wildlife and threatening public health.

How can we, as responsible citizens, allow the expansion of such a destructive operation—one managed solely for corporate profit at the expense of our environment, our community, and future generations?

I urge you to deny this expansion.

Marge Popp

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