

From: [Greg Warburton](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Greg Warburton submitting written statement supporting a Blanket DENIAL of Republic Services appeal of the CBL Expansion
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 1:30:34 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Landfill Final, write up.docx](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting my written statement below
AND
ATTACHING the Word Document as well.

October 7, 2025

ATTN: Benton County Board of Commissioners

RE: Proposal to Expand the Coffin Butte Landfill (LU-24-027)

Dear Commissioners:

I urge the Benton County Commissioners to take a courageous and unanimous stand by promptly denying, on November 4, 2025 Republic Services appeal to expand the Benton County Landfill.

I am outraged and extremely concerned that Republic Services is again endeavoring to expand the CBL. Just today in the Gazette Times *As I See It* column entitled: ***We Have 15 Years to Find Alternatives to Expansion***, Joel Geier states: *After years of fact-finding, Benton County residents now understand that Coffin Butte Landfill is a methane-belching environmental liability that transfers toxins from leachate ("garbage tea") into our Willamette River.*

There are many alternatives, some even easy. But you're not going to hear about them from Republic Services, or from their phony "grassroots" influence campaign, which has been trying to stir up fear.

I would add that their blind, broad-brush statement that only a very small percentage of our county's population are concerned about the ongoing harm being perpetrated is a reason to support their appeal. These two actions taken by Republic Services are pathetic and outrageous; have they no shame!?

Let's remember this December, 2021 headline: [Benton County Planning Commission unanimously denied LU-21-047, the application by Republic Services to expand Coffin Butte Landfill](#), finding that it **would cause significant harm** to Benton

County.

Four-plus years later, the CBL is increasingly a toxic cauldron and health hazard. And yet here we go again in 2025. Republic Services is persisting in their appeal to have the denial of their proposed expansion overturned. Dr. Shelley Su, retired OSU Public Health Department Professor and Toxicologist, has stated: *I was greatly alarmed to learn of the unprecedented exceedance of methane concentrations from the CBL; plus, there are significant concerns about the handling of leachate generated at the landfill; leachate that contains many chemicals that are extremely toxic to the environment, including polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other heavy metals.* Further, I have been informed that the landfill site and its methane releasing funnels also represent a continuous and significant fire hazard. And how has Republic Services defended against the scientists? They claim this is anecdotal evidence. Their *defense* against the reporting of area scientists is pathetic and outrageous; have they no shame!?

In this same vein, the As I See It article on August 30, 2025, entitled: *Why Republic Services is Desperate to Expand the Landfill*, Marge Popp states:

Republic Services is desperate. Across the U.S., waste transport by rail is booming, thanks to its efficiency and the advantages of siting landfills in dry climates with stable geology and sparse populations.

The frightening and ongoing environment-damaging results of this continuously operating toxic cauldron is that the CBL has not only significantly diminished the quality of life for those living in the area; it has also become literally life-threatening to plants, animals and us humans. And the area of impact continues to alarmingly expand as well.

I have lived in Corvallis since 1982. I love the Willamette Valley's cooler climes, as well as, the mountains and rivers and ocean in our geographic region. I am challenging the Commissioners to **take a long-term look at what will lead to an official end to the current CBL** and preserve Corvallis and neighboring communities as a safe and appealing place to live. I want to highlight **this suggested long-term look does NOT include any expansions.**

And about revenue generated for the county from this landfill operation, **let us remember**, Mark Yeager, civil and environmental engineer, highlighted in his "As I See It" article in the Gazette-Times newspaper on 09/05/24,

In the recently published "Solid Waste in Benton County FAQ" document, the county stated on Page 2, "Decisions to approve or deny land use permits at the landfill are not revenue-based decisions."

For a time, as I began learning about the issues, I wondered why Benton County Commissioners agreed to again review an appeal of their expansion request. Now I am terrified as I become clear that even long-standing, life-threatening business operations are allowed to continue because the status quo is comfortable, recent history is hard to look at forthrightly and shuffling downhill to ecological and moral decline is easier than facing the upward climb of, ultimately, ending this landfill operation and building our own solutions. These reasons are precisely why I suggest, in my opening, the Commissioners will be required to take a courageous stand denying the appeal and, thus, lead us to the start of different waste-management planning.

Ken Eklund, in his *As I See It* news piece on April 17, 2025 highlights Republic Services' evasion of the EPA's *active legal action... should be GAME OVER* (for the expansion)---*but never underestimate Republic's commitment to this expansion, or its ability to steamroll reality.*

In summary, I am dumbfounded that there is any consideration of expanding a business that has already proven to be irresponsible, dangerous and unsafe to all in our geographic area , in its practices at the landfill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Warburton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The letters are connected, and there is a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right. The signature is centered horizontally and is the only text in this block.

Greg Warburton MS, LPC

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