

From: [Keith Lembke \(via Google Docs\)](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LandfillLetter.docx
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 2:57:07 PM
Attachments: [3 Minute Speech.docx.pdf](#)

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Keith Lembke attached a document

 | Keith Lembke (keith.lembke@albany.k12.or.us) has attached the following document:

Keith Lembke's Letter in Opposition to the Landfill.

 3 Minute Speech.docx

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Dr Keith Lembke
39046 Trillium Lane
Corvallis, OR
541-740-8315

Benton County Commissioners
4500 SW Research Way
Second Floor
Corvallis, OR 97333

Dear Commissioners Wyse, Malone, and Shephard;

I am writing in opposition to the proposed expansion of Coffin Butte Land Fill. My credentials are that I have resided a mile west of Coffin Butte since 2003, I am the Chairman of the Benton County Republicans and speak for them, I have a Doctorate in Public Administration, and I have over forty years of experience in public service. I am against the proposal for three reasons I urge you to consider in your decision - lack of public mandate, lack of ability to monitor safety requirements, and the cumulative effects on the residents' pattern of life.

My research reveals a long-standing belief among the county population since 1974 that the Coffin Butte landfill would be temporary, with a long-term vision of an advanced waste management system. The Chemeketa Region Solid Waste Plan of 1974 was a collaborative effort between Benton, Linn, Marion, Yamhill, and Polk Counties and the DEQ to solve a burgeoning waste problem. It had five goals leading to the end of landfill operations and the creation of advanced waste disposal management systems. The plan consisted of the five counties' waste going to Coffin Butte while the components of the advanced waste management systems were developed in all the counties. While waste delivery to Benton County proceeded the rest of the plan did not materialize. Since its franchising in 1985, Coffin Butte has incrementally evolved to receive waste from 27 counties in addition to the original five, implying the landfill has become a regional landfill without a single mandate from the county's population.

The fact is I could not find a record of any public referendum on the plan or any of the expansions thereafter. It seems the County considered the lack of "significant" opposition to the expansions as unanimous consent to the landfill's expansion. That was not true - there has always been an expectation of an evolution to advanced waste disposal systems.

The state and county cannot fulfill its obligation to monitor the landfill as required by law. The Oregon Revised Statute 459 bestows upon the Department of Environmental Quality and the local County Government the responsibility to oversee and uphold the contractual and statutory obligations of the franchise and landfill. ORS 459.992 grants them the power to conduct inspections, stipulate permit conditions, and impose penalties. They are entrusted as our vigilant custodians. Regrettably, it has come to our attention that they can't do those things. They apparently either lack the technical capability or resources to protect us. This is not fair to us.

Finally, there has been no evaluation conducted on the combined impact of the various categorized "minor" disturbances involving air quality, traffic congestion, noise pollution, visual blight, and potential hydrological disruptions. While individually these factors may appear insignificant in the grand scheme of our daily lives, it is imperative to emphasize that their cumulative effect is indeed substantial. Each day brings forth its own challenges - whether it be the noxious odors (which, incidentally, caused me physical distress two weeks prior), the perpetual traffic congestion and litter along Independence Highway, or the disheartening sight of a growing mountain of waste that starkly contradicts the professed cultural values of our community. I assure you that all those added together have a significant effect on our pattern of life to those who live in the vicinity of the land fill..

I thank you for affording me the opportunity to address these matters and request your consideration of them as you decide this emotionally charged issue.

Regards,

R Keith Lembke

Keith Lembke