

From: [Virginia Scott](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 - Coffin Butte Landfill Conditional Use Permit Application – Oppose - County Residents Largely Oppose Expansion
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 3:16:12 PM
Attachments: [Benton County Opposition by the Numbers.pdf](#)

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This is updated Benton County Opposition by the Numbers testimony in opposition to the expansion which was part of the Planning Commission's unanimous decision to Deny, which I believe the County Commissioners should consider.

Sincerely,

Virginia Scott

October 7, 2025

To: landfillappeals@bentoncountyor.gov

Subject: Uphold Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027 – People Opposing

Dear Benton County Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd,

My name is Virginia Scott and I live at 37016 Soap Creek Road, Corvallis, OR 97330

My Credentials:

Soap Creek Valley Firewise Co-Chair

Studied Fire with: Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), OSU Extension, Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IHBS)

Landfill Adjacent Homeowner Since Mid-90's

Resides in the Odor "Shadow" of Coffin Butte

Witness to Changing Ecosystem

I am writing because I strongly oppose any expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill and urge you to uphold your Planning Commission's unanimous denial of LU-24-027, Republic Services' application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. The Planning Commission carefully considered all evidence provided by the applicant, as well as considerable testimony, and concluded unanimously that the application did not meet the required Burden of Proof.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the future of the Coffin Butte Landfill, a decision of great concern to our community.

Benton County Residents Largely Oppose the Landfill Expansion

On Thursday May 1, 2025 during Republic Services testimony to the Planning Commission (2:03:45 time marker on the recording), Brian Rupe, the Area VP, Northwest from Republic Services "reminded" the planning commission members that, when considering the opposition comments, they need to keep in mind that only 0.2% of the Benton County population submitted comments in opposition and that the Planning Commission should remember the rest of the Benton County residents.

Rupe's statement has an unstated assumption, which is, *people who aren't being vocal don't agree with VNEQS*, or conversely are in favor of Republic's landfill expansion. There is no evidence for this.

In real life, it's a rule of thumb that for each person taking action, there are many behind them who agree, but are not taking visible action, for various reasons. Each activist is the "tip of an iceberg". Let's assume for our purposes that for every person taking action on the landfill issue, there are 20 who agree with them.

If we assume 20 behind the scenes supporters for each vocal supporter, then there are 40 people in Benton County who are pro-expansion and 6000 people who are anti-expansion. (Assuming the number of people active on the anti-landfill side is 300). (The pro side is only 2 people, since I've excluded the pro-expansion person who lives in Lincoln County.)

Along those lines, if you think that three-quarters of the people in Benton County don't care one way or another, then you have 24,725 who do care. And if we apply the percentages established above, that means that 24,560 of the people who care and do have an opinion, are people who are against the landfill expansion.

Benton County Population: 98,899 (2024)

Corvallis Population: 61,087 (2023?)

Below are the "group" testimonies that I am aware of, who are testifying as groups against the landfill expansion, and the number of people represented by each. You will note that these numbers are not totaled, as I am aware that, with the exception of the political parties where voter registration limits an individual to one party, citizens may be part of several groups. The point in this table is that one comment does not equal one person in all cases, and that several comments were submitted on behalf of a group and its members in opposition to the landfill expansion.

Benton County Democrats Resolution (Registered Democrats in Benton County)	25,735
Benton County Republicans Resolution (Registered Republicans in Benton County)	12,242
Green Party Resolution (Registered Green Party in Benton County)	288
Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance	300
Marys Peak Group – Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club	58,000
League of Women Voters – Corvallis	143
Willamette Broadband – Great Old Broads	300
VNEQS Petition Opposing the Landfill Expansion	1,342
Citizens registered for Oral Testimony May 6 & 8	73
Citizens registered for Oral Testimony July 8 & 9	54
Community Letter to Board of Commissioners Opposing Expansion (10/7/25 2:14 PM)	536
Written Opposition Testimony submitted to Planning Commission (approximate)	750

Benton Individual People Registered to Testify in Favor of the Expansion	2
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Fools figure, and figures fool, but in this instance and by any manner in which these numbers are represented, the data illustrates strong and broad opposition to the landfill expansion.

Thank you for taking this information into consideration for your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Virginia Scott
37016 Soap Creek Road
Corvallis, OR 97330

#PeopleOpposing