

From: [Margaret Herring](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: WEB FORM SUBMISSION - LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 10:36:35 AM

Subject of Testimony: landfill expansion

Full Name: Margaret Herring

Email: 123herring@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 34386 Colorado Lake Drive, Corvallis, 97333

Written Testimony:

October 7, 2025. Testimony presented by Margaret Herring
I purchased my home on Soap Creek Road (37831) in 1990, where my husband and I lived for 22 years and raised our two children. We still own our home in the Soap Creek Valley. But THE CHARACTER OF THE AREA HAS DIMINISHED in the last several years as Republic Services has taken over the north end of the valley.

In 1990, the valley was a rural landscape of open space, forested habitat, and a healthy community. The landfill was there, of course, but at a scale appropriate to the rural setting. Now, the valley is overwhelmed by an ever-growing INDUSTRIAL-SCALE DUMP, WITH NOISE AND STINK AND TRASH AND TRAFFIC THAT REGULARLY INTERFERE WITH THE USE OF OUR PROPERTY.

But it is what we cannot see that worries us the most. We have learned that methane and other odorless gasses are escaping from the landfill with worrisome consequences to the health of our community and beyond. We have learned that the geology of the valley allows seepage of toxins into our wells that we depend on for drinking water. We have learned that PFAS and other toxins from landfill leachate are released into the Willamette River that we had trusted to be clean enough for our children to swim.

These are risks with IRREVERSIBLE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES. AND THESE RISKS ARE GROWING.

The landfill began as a military dump in 1942, improperly cited in a wetland and with no plan for long-term use. Yet, the landfill has grown steadily for 83 years, with incremental agreements and a series of conditional use permits. No one intended for Benton County to be the trash pit for western Oregon and Washington, but here we are. COFFIN BUTTE HAS BECOME A FESTERING WOUND ON THE FACE OF BENTON COUNTY.

This proposal seriously interferes with uses on our adjacent property. It seriously degrades the character of the area. And it imposes severe and undue burdens on homeowners in Soap Creek Valley as we grapple with polluted air, water, and land, as well as plummeting

--

This is a notification that a contact form was submitted on your website (Benton County, Oregon <https://www.bentoncountyor.gov>).
Submitter's IP Address: 69.1.125.15

