

From: [Eleanor Lowry](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Re: Republic Services appeal LU-24-027
Date: Friday, October 10, 2025 3:08:44 PM

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Submitted by: E. Kathryn Lowry, MD
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I am submitting testimony to express my strong opposition to the expansion of Coffin Butte landfill and to urge the Benton County commissioners to uphold the Planning Commission's unanimous denial of Republic Services proposed expansion.

As a physician, I realize the importance of promoting public health. However, I have many concerns regarding the detriments to public health posed by Coffin Butte landfill. Escaped leachate is a problem now and destined to be a problem for many years to come, resulting in contamination of drinking water and food supply through infiltration of wells and agricultural areas. Of note, PFAS ("forever chemicals") are a major concern. These toxic chemicals are NOT removed by municipal wastewater treatment plants and the PFAS chemicals end up in the Willamette River.

Additionally, significant methane leaks have been detected. This contributes to ground-level ozone and poor air quality. Republic Services has had repeated methane leak violations and it seems unlikely that this will change. In fact, expanding the landfill can only result in higher levels and more methane leaks.

Finally, as an avid birder and lover of nature, the negative effects of the leaks and toxins on our native wildlife are of grave concern to me.

My husband and I moved to Corvallis a few years ago because, among other reasons, the area promised to be a haven for clean water and air, outdoor recreation, and sustainable agriculture. I urge you to reject the plan by Republic Services to expand Coffin Butte landfill.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the residents of Benton County.
E. Kathryn Lowry, MD