

From: [TODD VICKI ROWLAND](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Uphold Benton County Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027
Date: Saturday, October 11, 2025 10:57:29 AM

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October 9, 2025

TO: Benton County Board of Commissioners (Malone, Shepard, & Wyse)

FROM: Vicki Druliner, 27673 Writsman Creek Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330

RE: Uphold Benton County Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027

I have been a resident of Benton County since 1973 and a homeowner in the Soap Creek Valley since 1989. I am writing to **oppose the expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill and urge the BOC to uphold the BC Planning Commission's UNANIMOUS denial of Republic Services appeal.** The growth of this "accidental" landfill from the burn dump serving Camp Adair in the 1940's to a regional landfill serving one-third of western Oregon has accelerated since the Arizona based mega-landfill corporation, Republic Services, acquired it in 2008. It is clear that the landfill should not have been allowed to be located here in the first place, squeezed in on unsuitable wetlands between forest and farmland use, constrained by Highway 99 on the east side and by Coffin Butte Rd. on the south side.

The denial of Republic Services first expansion proposal in 2021 could have been the end of it, but Republic Services has in this recent application chosen to present a *portion* of the original proposal as "new". Approval of their current application removes the **ONLY** control that Benton County currently has over the landfill, which is the annual tonnage cap of 1.1 million tons set in place in the 2020 franchise agreement. Currently Republic Services apparently hovers at that cap level, however, since they are "self-reporting", that could be misleading. They do not have a good track record for self-reporting methane leaks, for example. Currently, Coffin Butte Landfill is discharging *excessive amounts of methane and 30 other toxic chemicals* into the air and are being investigated by EPA. Additionally, leachate containing "forever chemicals" is collected daily and trucked to wastewater treatment facilities in Corvallis and Salem, however those chemicals cannot be removed from the discharge and enter the Willamette River unchecked, to be drawn into drinking water serving communities downstream. The millions of tons of waste in Coffin Butte are separated from the ground water by a plastic liner, which will eventually fail and further contaminate drinking water and soil.

I feel that the expansion of the landfill would not be in keeping with the **BC Land**

Development Code 53.215 (1) and (2). There has been sufficient evidence submitted by many residents of Benton County stating the negative impact from the current landfill on their air quality, farming operations, property values and “character of the area”. The fire danger posed by this operation has been understated and is of great concern. Currently volunteer firefighters need to wear respirators because of the danger of exposure to toxic chemicals from even the smallest fires. The nearby homes, forest land, farming operations and the nearby City of Adair are all at risk should a larger fire erupt.

Coffin Butte currently has enough space to continue their operations for up to 14 years (with the tonnage cap in place), sufficient time to close down and relocate to a more suitable area. Approval of the expansion request cannot remedy the existing conditions and would allow Republic Services to increase the amount of trash being brought in without constraint and essentially without any repercussions to violations (since they “self report”). The County will have no leverage, the EPA/DEQ seems to show incredibly slow responses to violations and the remediation for the eventual failure of the landfill will cost millions of dollars more than the piddly amount currently earmarked to address that.

The \$5.7 million dollars that Republic Services pays to the County is 1% of the biennial budget revenue. And in return? Benton County residents pay the highest garbage service rate of six surrounding counties and are saddled with an evergrowing, stinking, oozing environmental time bomb.

Please uphold the Benton County Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027.