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To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
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Subject: More reasons to deny landfill expansion
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I have been a resident of North Albany for 26 years and worked at the HP Corvallis site since 1994 as an engineering manager. I understand the hazards associated with industrial and chemical waste. Over the past few years I've become very concerned about the expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill. To educate myself I did research and attended meetings, particularly the Benton County Planning Commission hearings held this year. From what I've read and heard, I am gravely concerned about this landfill and strongly believe it represents a severe risk to the health and safety of our community. If you have not already done so, please educate yourself on the facts and science that are well-documented and presented at the Planning Commission meetings.

Despite reassurance from Republic Services, there are no concrete plans for them to address the following health and safety concerns and liveability issues:

1. PFAs (aka "forever chemicals") - there is no plan to address their capture and mitigation. You shouldn't approve an application to expand the landfill if you don't know or understand the risks associated with it.
2. Methane emissions - Republic Services has repeatedly exceeded the limits for excessive methane emission, and is currently in violation of EPA and DEQ regulations on both air and ground water quality standards. In addition they were found to be in violation of OSHA requirements for the safety of their workers. This doesn't sound like a company we can trust to ensure the health and welfare of local residents is responsibly managed.
3. Leachate - what is Republic Service's plan to properly handle leachate? The City of Corvallis will stop accepting leachate at its water treatment plant this year, not that it was actually treating it since it's not designed to (it is only diluting it). Leachate has nasty and dangerous chemicals that today are being flushed into the Willamette River. As someone who enjoys paddling on the river, what risks have I unknowingly been exposed to? Will adding more leachate (directly through the river or indirectly through underground leakage) to our environment be better for us?
4. Odor issues - Republic Services has denied or downplayed this issue which has been a real and contentious problem for many local residents. If they won't address this issue, how can we be sure they are willing to handle the more serious ones? What will it take to get them to operate in compliance?

We all want good paying jobs and a healthy economy. However there are some businesses whose operations put the local residents at too much risk for the benefits they offer. This is the case with Republic Services and the operation of the Coffin Butte landfill. There are safer short term alternatives to consider like shipping waste via train to the Columbia Ridge facility in eastern Oregon. Unlike Coffin Butte, that site is better suited to handling waste given its drier climate and soil type. It could also employ the intermodal distribution rail center in

Millersburg that has been sorely underutilized. I doubt there would be much impact in terms of jobs lost; in fact, I could see this option providing more local jobs.

Looking ahead there is plenty of opportunity to become a leader in this area of waste management. This is a global issue with many municipalities and organizations working to develop safer solutions. I encourage Benton County government to seek out partnerships and opportunities to recruit new businesses that are investing in better technologies and systems. Instead of expanding a landfill that is geologically a poor site for one and that represents an even larger liability if the expansion occurs, have the courage to take a different path. The time to act is NOW. It should start with planning for the closure of Coffin Butte over the next 6-10 years, not its expansion. As elected officials, your top priority is the health and safety of your community. Please put our interests ahead of Republic Services.

Respectfully,
Laura (Lori)Tully
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