

From: [Debora Johnson](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Written testimony LU-24-027
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Attachments: [Debora and Norm Johnson comment LU 24 027.pdf](#)

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Please find attached our written testimony regarding LU-24-027

Debora and Norm Johnson
28831 Tampico Road
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Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners:

Our Names are Debora L. and K. Norman Johnson
28831 Tampico Road, Corvallis OR. 97330
541-745-5261

We have lived at our current residence near Coffin Butte Landfill for 30 years. We oppose Republic Services' Conditional Use Permit application LU-24-027 to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

Over the past 30 years we have watched as:

- Production at what was once a modest quarry ramped up and took down an entire side of Coffin Butte leaving an enormous scar.
- The noise from backup beeping alarms on landfill equipment has continued to increase and oftentimes starts very early in the morning (although we were told 30 years ago by landfill employees that quieter backup warning systems were available).
- The landfill's wetland mitigation projects have gone from ponds with native plant species heavily used by waterfowl, to ponds overgrown by invasive species like the yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). The adjacent uplands are increasingly covered by an expansive and diverse assemblage of invasive species.
- There has been a general decrease in communication between landfill representatives and the local community. It seems like Republic Services has absolutely no interest in the well-being or concerns of nearby residents.

We oppose the landfill expansion proposal because we believe that:

- The natural environment on the lands owned by Republic Services in and around the landfill will continue to be degraded and destroyed.
- The expansion that we have watched over the past 30 years that has resulted in most of the refuse coming from distant locations has impacted both the community and the environment. The landfill was poorly located in and around wetlands out of necessity for the 40,000 troops housed at Camp Adair during WWII. Expanding the landfill in this fragile environment should not be continued.
- The groundwater that provides the water that we drink and the water we use for our large vegetable gardens could be irreversibly contaminated.
- The noise from the backup beeping will only get worse.
- Methane emissions from the landfill are poorly managed and contribute to anthropogenic climate warming.

Republic Services should not begin to discuss landfill expansion until it has made significant progress filling the quarry and restoring Coffin Butte to its former pastoral beauty. Lands that they have completed filling have not been restored and are covered with unsightly tarps. We believe that filling the quarry and restoring the current landfill area will take quite a few years, during which time Republic Services could also try to build community trust.