

From: [S V DeHerd](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Uphold Planning Commission--Denial of LU-24-027
Date: Monday, October 13, 2025 4:40:15 PM
Attachments: [eMail 2025 1005 S.V.DeHerd UpholdPlanningCommissionDenialOfLU-24-027.pdf](#)

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To: landfillappeals@bentoncountyor.gov
Subject: Uphold Planning Commission -- Denial of LU-24-027

Dear Benton County Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd,

My name is Sonja De Herdt and I live at 502 Fawn Ln, Philomath OR 97370.

I am writing because I strongly oppose any expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill and urge you to uphold your Planning Commission's unanimous denial of LU-24-027, Republic Services' application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. The Planning Commission carefully considered all evidence provided by the applicant, as well as considerable testimony, and concluded unanimously that the application did not meet the required Burden of Proof.

The proposed expansion will seriously interfere with the character of the surrounding area and impose **an undue burden on public resources**, in violation of Benton County Code 53.215 (1) and (2). The applicant does not adequately address major concerns about:

- **Uncontrolled landfill gas leaks containing methane and PFAS** that threaten local and global ecosystems and community health
- **Massive quantities of leachate trucked offsite** (40 million gallons in 2024) containing PFAS and other toxic industrial chemicals that end up in our waterways and generate PFAS-laden biosolids which are spread on land
- **Potential catastrophic fire danger** from ignition sources inside and outside the landfill (after-hours/unmonitored hot loads, equipment fires) (windblown wildfire embers, lightning strikes) catching uncontrolled methane leaks on fire
- **Undue burden on local fire department** health and safety (to fight landfill fires) **and community** (to monitor and report fires after hours – even on red flag days)
- **Traffic increases** that pose safety risks on nearby highways, roads and bike paths
- **Odor and noise issues** that degrade quality of life for residents and visitors alike
- **Litter** on roadsides, farmers' fields, pastures and other private property
- **Negative impacts on wildlife, recreation, and property values**
- **Long-term climate and environmental consequences** for future generations

The proposed expansion also does not align with *Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative* core values. The existing landfill *already undermines* shared goals for responsible environmental stewardship, prioritizing public health, and sustainable waste management; an expanded landfill would not change this metric.

I believe Benton County should invest in protecting its reputation for agritourism, outdoor recreation, clean air and water, high tech and higher education, not expand a landfill that is already a huge visual blight, perpetuates pollution and places a long-term burden on local communities!

Please reject LU-24-027. Thank you for your consideration and for protecting the health and future of Benton County.

Sincerely,
Sonja V. De Herdt
Philomath OR 97370

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