

From: [befrey](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 testimony
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Testimony from Laura Hansen, 6780 NW Mountain View Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330

I am very opposed to the Coffin Butte expansion, LU-24-027. I have lived in north Corvallis for much of the past 45 years. My two children grew up here. I enjoy outdoor activities and I want our community to stand for sound environmental policies. I don't want my health or the health of my friends to be threatened by continuing unsafe practices at the landfill.

This letter concerns water pollution. Relevant documents, BENTON COUNTY CODE 51.215 (3) SERIOUS BURDEN ON PROVISION OF A PUBLIC SERVICE and Benton County's Thriving Community Initiative: High Quality Environment, Livable Communities, and Health Considerations in all Policies, Practices and Operations.

Clean water is an essential public service. There are many residences using wells in northern Benton County, including our own home. At the landfill the groundwater level is very shallow. In the winter it is right at the base of the fill area. It's easy to predict groundwater contamination. If a new landfill were proposed here, it would be denied. There has been evidence of abnormally high levels of arsenic in soil close to but already outside the current Republic Services property. While it is hard to measure the extent of groundwater pollution outside the landfill property, we can't ignore the threat to our wells. Once our well is contaminated, it will be too late for us and for our neighbors.

More broadly, clean water is an essential public service for communities that use the Willamette River as a water source. Many trucks full of leachate are trucked away from the landfill every day. The leachate goes to two water treatment plants that are not equipped to take out metals, toxic chemicals, and forever plastics. Therefore the Willamette River, a water source for many valley residents, is being polluted with dangerous substances. An acquaintance of mine who is a biologist with years of studying fish in the Willamette admitted to me that, because of pollution, he would not eat fish caught there.

There is an alternative. Many communities transport waste by train to areas with less rainfall and deeper groundwater levels. I hope that the Commissioners will act to protect our safety by denying the landfill expansion.