

From: [Steph Newton](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: WEB FORM SUBMISSION - LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Testimony
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:03:04 PM

Subject of Testimony: Support Coffin Butte Expansion

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Written Testimony:

Good evening, Commissioners.

My name is Steph Newton, and I serve as the City Council President in Albany, representing Ward 1, which includes North Albany in Benton County. I'm also a member of the Democratic National Committee. I want to be clear that I'm here this evening solely as a resident and community member — not on behalf of the Albany City Council, the Democratic Party of Oregon, or the Democratic National Committee.

Now, I'll be the first to admit: I am that person who composts, recycles, and reuses everything I can. I even have a colony of red wiggler worms in my garage, doing their part to help me reduce waste (and create some awesome compost for my garden). But even with all that, I still create trash — and so does every single one of us. The question isn't whether we create waste; it's how responsibly we manage it.

Oregon recently passed a \$4.3 billion transportation package to improve roads, bridges, and reduce environmental impacts. The decision before you today directly supports those same goals. If this expansion is denied, our waste doesn't vanish — it just travels farther. That means more diesel trucks on our highways, more wear and tear on the very roads we're trying to preserve, higher costs for families, and greater greenhouse gas emissions.

Coffin Butte already operates under some of the strictest environmental standards, and the 34 new proposed conditions only strengthen those safeguards — addressing noise, odor, litter, groundwater, and wildlife protection. This project also generates millions in annual revenue for Benton County that can be reinvested in local infrastructure and environmental programs.

At a time when taxpayers are being asked to fund major transportation improvements, rejecting a project that helps pay for those very goals is shortsighted.

This isn't about politics. It's about fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and long-term planning. If we want safe roads, a stronger infrastructure, and a sustainable Oregon, Coffin Butte must be part of the solution.

Thank you.

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