

From: [Elise Yarnell](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for Submission for Coffin Butte
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Written Testimony RE: Coffin Butte
Submitted to the Benton County Board of Commissioners

October 14, 2025

Chair and Commissioners,

Food Northwest appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the proposed Coffin Butte Landfill expansion. Food Northwest is the trade association for food and beverage makers across Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. Our members include Oregon's food manufacturers and those companies which supply equipment, goods, and services to them. Oregon is home to nearly 2,000 food companies which directly employ 35,000 Oregonians. Over 120,000 Oregon jobs depend on food making. Importantly, these jobs span all 36 Oregon counties meaning both urban and rural communities of all sizes depend on us. Food companies are also essential to the economic well-being of Oregon's farm and ranch families. Food Northwest member company operations are present in all counties within the Coffin Butte service area.

Our member companies have made incredible advances in waste reduction in every phase of manufacturing. Even so, the success of food companies in Oregon depends on reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible waste infrastructure which Coffin Butte provides.

Coffin Butte plays a critical role in Oregon's food supply chain. The facility provides a stable, local solution for managing those byproducts and other materials for which there is no currently viable alternative use or re- or upcycling opportunity. When local disposal options are limited, processors must rely on long-haul transport to distant facilities — a costly, inefficient, and environmentally counterproductive alternative. Long-haul trucking increases fuel use, traffic, and emissions, while introducing unpredictable costs that can ripple through operations, suppliers, and ultimately Oregon consumers. Cost increases also threaten food companies' ability to remain competitive and can disincentivize investments in upgraded or new facilities and the jobs they provide.

The Coffin Butte expansion is a practical, locally managed solution that protects both the environment and the economy. The site's gas recovery and monitoring programs demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability, aligning with Food Northwest's and Oregon's broader environmental and climate goals. Expanding an existing, well-

regulated facility — one with proven compliance and oversight — is far more responsible than shifting waste management to remote locations outside Benton County and/or Oregon's regulatory framework.

This project also helps maintain regional balance and fairness. Coffin Butte serves not only Benton County but also surrounding rural communities that depend on the site's capacity and affordability. Expanding Coffin Butte ensures that responsibility for managing Oregon's waste remains local — preserving both accountability and benefits within the region.

Food Northwest supports responsible, data-driven planning that allows Oregon's businesses and communities to grow while maintaining environmental stewardship. The Coffin Butte expansion embodies that approach. It provides a thoughtful, well-monitored path forward that maintains local control, minimizes environmental impact, and sustains critical infrastructure for Oregon's food sector and the families it supports.

We urge the Benton County Commissioners to approve the Coffin Butte expansion and ensure that Oregon's businesses, workers, and communities retain access to the reliable, well-regulated infrastructure that keeps our economy and environment in balance.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on this important regional issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Dillon
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