

From: [Susan Wahlke](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Cc: [Lexi Howell](#)
Subject: LU-24-027
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[coffin butte letter Oct 2025.docx](#)

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Please accept the attached written testimony in LU-24-027.

Susan Wahlke
Mayor



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**The Office of
MAYOR**

October 20, 2025

Benton County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 3020
Corvallis, OR 97339
landfillappeals@bentoncountyor.gov

RE: **LU-24-027**

Dear County Commissioners:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Lincoln City, I urge you to approve the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. You may wonder why a medium sized city on the Oregon coast is concerned about a landfill in your county. Coffin Butte is the closest landfill available for Lincoln County haulers to take our garbage. In Lincoln City we do a good job of separating our recyclables and compost materials in order to reduce the amount of garbage that needs to be transported to Coffin Butte. If Coffin Butte does not expand, the alternative would mean that our haulers will need to haul even further (as much as 225 miles to Arlington), thereby increasing the rates our residents must pay. For a rural retirement community like ours, keeping garbage service affordable is a top priority, and expansion of Coffin Butte is essential to make that possible.

Landfills in Oregon are highly regulated, safe facilities that provide livable-wage jobs and play an essential role in communities across our State. No one loves landfills, but cost-effective and environmentally responsible waste disposal is an essential service. The proposed expansion is the final phase of an already approved plan, designed to extend the life of the landfill and allow time for exploring alternative long-term waste management solutions.

Expanding Coffin Butte means affordable service for families, accountability for where our waste goes, and opportunities to inspire young people to think about how they can make a difference. Coffin Butte provides tours for our local students, sparking important conversations about sustainability and personal responsibility. The reality is that we all generate waste, and pretending it can be “out of sight, out of mind” does a disservice to the next generation.

Thank you for this opportunity to support the appeal of the Commission’s denial, and ask for your approval to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

Sincerely,

Susan Wahlke

Susan Wahlke, Lincoln City Mayor

