

From: [Robert Wheatcroft](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: WEB FORM SUBMISSION - LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025 1:02:17 PM

Subject of Testimony: OPPOSITION to landfill expansion

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Written Testimony:

Hello Benton County Commissioners.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill and request that you uphold the unanimous decision by the Planning Commission to deny the Conditional Use Permit submitted by Republic Services. Before providing support for my requests, I provide some personal background.

My family and I have lived in Benton County for over 27 years, with the past 23 years in northern Benton County, approximately 3.5 miles (direct line) south of the landfill (on Logsdon Ridge, off Pettibone Drive). I am a retired OSU professor (oceanography/geology), and my wife raised Pygora goats. Our two daughters grew up in Corvallis and graduated from Crescent Valley HS. I spend a lot of time outside, on our property and in the surrounding area (e.g., McDonald Forest, Camp Adair).

My opposition to the land fill expansion is based on three factors: frequent odor, abundant roadside litter, and dramatically increased truck traffic. All these factors seriously interfere with the uses of adjacent property and degrade the character of the surrounding area. The latter two also impose an undue burden on public facilities.

Odor: at least once, sometimes multiple times, a week the stench of the dump descends upon our property. It is unmistakable. Some days it is so bad that we cannot be outside! Beyond the smell itself, which is putrid, I am concerned about breathing the accompanying hazardous airborne pollutants (e.g., methane, PFAS, volatile organic compounds). The odor problem has only existed at our property for the past 5-7 years during which the landfill expanded dramatically. The odor and airborne pollutants will only get worse with further expansion of the landfill!

Litter: The amount of roadside litter in northern Benton County has increased dramatically in the past 5-7 years. On multiple occasions, I have personally witnessed trash flying out the back of large semis on their way to the dump (via Independence Highway or Route 99). Our roadsides are covered in litter, which detracts from the rural character of the area, and, if picked up, which it should be(!), would impose unnecessary costs to the Benton County. The roadside litter will only get worse with further expansion of the landfill!

Truck traffic: There has been a noticeable increase in the traffic of large trucks in northern Benton County during the last few years. On weekdays, I have observed scores of trucks on Independence Highway, Camp Adair Road, and Highways 99 and 20. These trucks are a

safety concern – they drive fast and they are too large for our roads – and they must contribute to the degradation of the roads. Potholes on Independence Highway have increased in frequency and severity. I used to bicycle in northern Benton County but have stopped out of concern for my own safety. The amount of truck traffic will only increase with further expansion of the landfill.

In summary, the rural character of northern Benton County has been negatively impacted by the Coffin Butte landfill. Further expansion will only make these impacts worse. Please uphold the unanimous decision by the Planning Commission to deny the Conditional Use Permit submitted by Republic Services.

Sincerely, Robert Wheatcroft

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