

**From:** [Chris Michel](#)  
**To:** [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)  
**Subject:** Uphold Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027  
**Date:** Sunday, October 19, 2025 11:43:13 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Benton County Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd:

My name is Christopher Michel, and I live at 4393 NW Jon Place, Corvallis, OR 97330. I have lived most of my life in the state of Oregon, ever since my family moved to Corvallis in 1970 after my father was hired at Oregon State University.

I attended college at the University of Oregon in Eugene, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and a minor in Biology. Later, I attended Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, where I graduated with a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies and then worked in the OHSU Department of Family Medicine until moving back to Corvallis in 2022.

I am writing because I strongly oppose any expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill and urge you to uphold your Planning Commission's unanimous denial of LU-24-027, Republic Services' application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. The Planning Commission carefully considered all evidence provided by the applicant, as well as considerable testimony, and concluded unanimously that the application did not meet the required Burden of Proof.

The proposed expansion will seriously interfere with the character of the surrounding area and impose **an undue burden on public resources**, in violation of Benton County Code 53.215 (1) and (2). The applicant does NOT adequately address major concerns about **uncontrolled landfill gas leaks containing methane and PFAS in the leachate from the landfill** that threaten local and global ecosystems and community health. Many PFAS such as PFOS and PFOA pose health and environmental concerns because they are persistent organic pollutants (aka "forever chemicals"). **Massive quantities of leachate is currently trucked offsite** from the Coffin Butte landfill (40 million gallons in 2024). This leachate contains PFAS and other toxic industrial chemicals, which subsequently end up in our waterways and generate PFAS-laden biosolids which are spread on land. These chemicals do not disappear or degrade, and thus remain in Benton county farmland, groundwater and in the Willamette River, where they are then carried downstream to other communities that use the Willamette River for their drinking water (such as Wilsonville, OR).

As a primary care provider, I am particularly concerned about PFAS, because exposure to PFAS has been linked to kidney cancer, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, developmental issues in children, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis and liver disease. Allowing the landfill expansion to proceed would result in even more of this PFAS-laden leachate to be produced, which would then place an even greater burden on THE most important public resource of all: clean drinking water, without which humans cannot survive.

Please reject LU-24-027. It is imperative, not only for the health of the current residents living in Benton County and all of the other Oregon communities that live along the Willamette River downstream from the current Coffin Butte landfill, but for all of the *future* residents who

will have to deal with the repercussions of this decision for decades to come. We need to stand up NOW to protect our land, air and water for our children, their children, and their children's children. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Michel, MPAS, PA-C  
Corvallis, OR 97330