

From: [Adam Holdorf](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Uphold Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025 10:53:52 PM

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Dear Benton County Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd,

My name is Adam Holdorf and I live at 2434 SW Holden St, Apartment A, in Seattle Washington.

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.

My family views this proposed with expansion with extreme concern.

A little about us:

My parents have run businesses in the Corvallis area since the 1980s, when my father began working as an independent builder and cabinetmaker.

My stepmother has co-owned a retail store in Corvallis for nearly three decades.

My sister is a carpenter, craftsperson and craft teacher, and a founder of Tarweed Folk School, providing community-based learning in Benton County.

In 1989, when I was 14, my parents built our family home abutting the buffer acreage south of the active landfill. The then-owner assured them that the landfill would never expand toward our home -- the home we still own, in which my stepmother, my sister and her partner reside. The home in which my sister has built a business that hosts a community of fellow craftspeople. And a home they plan to stay in all the rest of their days.

In the decades since, we've watched uneasily as the landfill has grown. We've smelled its foul odors on innumerable mornings when atmospheric inversions allow the sulfurous gasses to seep to our door. We've stared with worry at our countertop water pitcher, wondering: How will we know if or when our groundwater is unsafe to drink? Will the first sign be a cancer diagnosis, a neurological condition? Why are we and our neighbors bearing the cost of the applicant's business operations?

I grew up in the Soap Creek Valley, and I have spent many hours of my adult life back there, whether visiting my family or traveling the trails and roads in the watershed, from McCulloch Peak to Coffin Butte Road.

While marred by a landfill that has grown too fast through transfer of waste from outside the county, the Soap Creek Valley, for now, remains a place of considerable beauty. The forested slopes of the OSU Research Forest, the Beef Barn agricultural lands, and the numerous small farms and woodlots harbor birds, amphibians and native flora. The vanished homestead of Black pioneer Letitia Carson sits somewhere between Soap Creek and the 400 Road of Dunn Forest, southwest of Republic's site.

You have a choice: You can either honor, or mar, the special habitats and history of this little corner of Benton County.

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 that threaten local and global ecosystems and community health.
- Massive quantities of leachate trucked offsite (40 million gallons in 2024) containing PFAS and other toxic industrial chemicals that end up in our waterways and generate PFAS-laden biosolids which are spread on land.
- Potential catastrophic fire danger from ignition sources inside and outside the landfill (after-hours/unmonitored hot loads, equipment fires) (windblown wildfire embers, lightning strikes) catching uncontrolled methane leaks on fire.
- Undue burden on local fire department health and safety (to fight landfill fires) and community (to monitor and report fires after hours – even on red flag days).
- Traffic increases that pose safety risks on nearby highways and roads.
- Odor and noise issues that degrade quality of life for residents and visitors alike.
- Litter on roadsides, farmers' fields, pastures and other private property. My sister and I walk the forests and fields and find trash of all sizes that's drifted over, either from passing trucks or from the landfill itself.
- Negative impacts on wildlife, recreation, and property values.
- Long-term climate and environmental consequences for future generations.

The proposed expansion also does not align with Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative core values. The existing landfill already undermines our shared goals for responsible environmental stewardship, prioritizing public health, and sustainable waste management.

Our family plans to stay perpetually on our land, to maintain its rural character, its history and biodiversity, and to sustain our contributions in local craft, community, and commerce. Our interests in clean air, clean water and a healthy community for the generations to come: these matter.

Benton County should invest in protecting its reputation for agritourism, outdoor recreation, clean air and water, high tech and higher education, not expand a landfill that is already a huge visual blight, perpetuates failed public policy, and places a long-term burden on local communities.

Please reject LU-24-027. Thank you for your consideration and for protecting the health and future of Benton County.

Sincerely,
Adam Holdorf
Seattle, Washington, 98106