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To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Deny Coffin Butte expansion!
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:29:54 AM

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I am gravely concerned about this landfill and strongly believe it represents a severe risk to the health and safety of our community. I have been a resident of North Albany for 26 years and worked as a chemist and environmental engineer. I understand the hazards associated with industrial and chemical waste.

Despite reassurance from Republic Services, there are no concrete plans for them to address the following health and safety concerns and liveability issues:

1. Leachate - what is Republic Service's plan to properly handle leachate? The City of Corvallis will stop accepting leachate at its water treatment plant this year, not that it was actually treating it (only diluting it). Leachate has heavy metals, PFAs, and other chemicals that are being flushed into the Willamette River. As someone who enjoys paddling on the river, what risks am I exposed to? Even worse, how is the leachate affecting the wildlife that lives in the river full-time?
2. Methane emissions - Republic Services has repeatedly exceeded the limits for excessive methane emission, and is currently in violation of EPA and DEQ regulations on both air and ground water quality standards. In addition, they were found to be in violation of OSHA requirements for the safety of their workers. This doesn't sound like a company we can trust to ensure the health and welfare of local residents is responsibly managed.
- 3) Several other issues that may be less quantifiable, but nonetheless degrade the livability of our community such as odor, trash spewed from trucks, and more.

We all want good paying jobs and a healthy economy. However, there are some businesses whose operations put the local residents at too much risk for the benefits they offer. This is the case with Republic Services and the operation of the Coffin Butte landfill. There are better, safer alternatives to consider like shipping waste via train to the Columbia Ridge facility in eastern Oregon. Unlike Coffin Butte, that site is better suited to handling waste given its drier climate and soil type. It could also employ the intermodal distribution rail center in Millersburg that has been sorely underutilized. I doubt there would be much impact in terms of jobs lost; in fact, I could see this option providing more local jobs.

Looking ahead there is plenty of opportunity to become a leader in this area of waste management. This is a global issue with many municipalities and organizations working to develop safer solutions. I encourage Benton County government to seek out partnerships and opportunities to recruit new businesses that are investing in better technologies and systems. Instead of expanding a landfill that is geologically a poor site for one and that represents an even larger liability if the expansion occurs, have the courage to take a different path. The time to act is NOW. It should start with planning for the closure of Coffin Butte over the next 6-10 years, not its expansion. As elected officials, your top priority is the health and safety of your community. Please put our interests ahead of Republic Services.

Best regards,

Chris Beatty