

From: [kelly burnett](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Uphold Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:09:30 AM

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Dear Benton County Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd,

Over my 40 years living in Benton County, I have witnessed the landfill grow to previously unimaginable proportions in size and stench. Growth in both will continue even without the proposed expansion. Unfortunately, the many problems residents and public resources already face from the landfill would be compounded by the proposed expansion, further straining the county's limited enforcement capability. All of that would be in violation of Benton County Code 53.215 (1) and (2). The footprint of the proposed expansion is well beyond anything that can be justified to meet the solid waste-disposal needs of our community.

I strongly oppose expanding the landfill based on environmental and livability concerns and urge the Board of Commissioners to uphold the Planning Commission's decision to deny LU-24-027, the application by Republic Services to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

The application does not meet the required Burden of Proof. That was the conclusion unanimously reached by the Planning Commission after considering all evidence from the applicant and voluminous testimony. The Planning Commission's well-founded conclusion should be confirmed by Benton County Commissioners and the application denied.

The applicant does not adequately address:

Environmental concerns, including

- Uncontrolled leaks of methane and PFAS that immediately threaten ecosystem and public health and have long-term environmental and climate consequences
- Massive quantities of leachate trucked offsite (40 million gallons in 2024), containing PFAS and other toxic industrial chemicals that are spread on land and can contaminate surface waters and groundwater.
- Negative impacts on wildlife, fish, and other aquatic organisms
- Negative impacts to community health

Community livability concerns, including

- Negative impacts to property values and recreational opportunities
- Danger of catastrophic fire from sources inside and outside the landfill that may ignite uncontrolled methane leaks, which put fire fighters and neighbors at risk
- Increased traffic that poses safety risks for traveler on nearby highways, roads and bike paths
- Odor and noise issues that degrade quality of life
- Increased litter along roads and on private property

The proposed expansion fails to 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.

Benton County should be fostering an environment that offers clean air and water to support agriculture, high-tech industry, human health, outdoor recreation, and tourism as well as to attract members of a vibrant community such as relocating retirees and students seeking higher education. Expanding the landfill works in opposition to those economic and social goals.

Please reject LU-24-027. Thank you for considering my written testimony on this incredibly important issue and for protecting the environment and livability of Benton County today and into the future.

Sincerely,
Kelly M. Burnett, PhD
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