

From: [Eryn B](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Uphold Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:44:26 AM

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October 20, 2025

Benton County Board of Commissioners
4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333

Re: File Number LU-24-027

Dear Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd:

My name is Eryn Bertsch and I live at 4127 NW Elmwood Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Oregon. I am married with two children who attend Corvallis schools.

I am writing to oppose the expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill.

I relocated my family to Corvallis in 2024 because I wanted to raise my kids in a small community with good schools and access to natural areas. At a time when I am particularly worried about the mental and physical health of the next generation, I was happy to see that even the middle school website had a section on mental health that encouraged kids to spend more time in nature.

I am worried about Coffin Butte landfill's effect on the natural areas that are surrounding the landfill. My daughter's high school cross country team runs around the Peavy Arboretum and around the Lewisburg Saddle. Spending time outside in nature is a core value in Corvallis and I want to keep it clean and healthy for my kids and future generations. I am very worried about the leachate and emissions that the landfill is generating. There is not adequate testing to ensure that the leachate isn't mixing with the groundwater and spreading out to poison surrounding areas. I like to buy produce from local farms in north Corvallis, but I am becoming increasingly cautious about buying produce grown so close to Coffin Butte.

As a parent, I closely follow the Corvallis School Board, and they continually talk about decreasing budgets and enrollment. There is constant talk about needing more housing and drawing more families to Corvallis and Corvallis schools. I see new housing being developed near Adair Village but I have heard from residents of Adair Village that the smell from the landfill is noxious at times. If the landfill expansion is approved, the smell will only increase which will lower property values and decrease the chance that families are willing to move here. That hurts Corvallis schools for everyone.

My understanding is that Republic Services has to provide trash service to Benton County until 2040. That gives us time to make a good decision now. Our representative Sarah Finger-McDonald is working on a plan for handling Benton County's waste going forward. The plan involves closing the landfill as agreed to in 2040.

Allowing the landfill expansion would go against Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative's Core Values where Benton County strives to ensure a high quality environment and easy access to the outdoors. The character of the area surrounding Coffin Butte is breathtaking natural spaces and housing for Benton County residents. Expanding the landfill would seriously interfere with those uses by poisoning the land and decreasing house values. Benton County Code 53.215 (1)

Benton County is a very special place in Oregon. Please uphold the Planning Committee's unanimous decision to reject the landfill expansion and protect this heart of the valley that we are lucky enough to call home.

Sincerely,

Eryn Bertsch