

From: [Chris Bentley](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 Written Testimony
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:45:59 AM
Attachments: [Testimony, Coffin Butte pdf.pdf](#)

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Please find attached, as well as inserted below, my testimony for LU-24-027. Thank you.

October 18, 2025

Subject: Uphold Planning Commission denial of LU-24-027

Dear Commissioners Malone, Wyse and Shepherd:

My name is Chris Bentley; I live at 2175 SE Powells Road, outside Corvallis. My education and career in land use planning includes 13 years for Benton County Community Development, Senior Planner.

Abundant, accurate, and expert testimony from the community has already established the facts - Republic's proposed expansion is exceptionally far from meeting conditional use criteria required by BCC 53.215 (1) (2). I concur, and will not reiterate the facts here.

I wish to emphasize two overarching points weighing profoundly upon this process, affecting it at every juncture.

Point 1 - Very wrong location: Coffin Butte Landfill should never have been located where it is. At the landfill's inception our country was at war, Pearl Harbor had been attacked, and the location was convenient to an immense, hastily-constructed military camp of 40,000 persons. The trash had to go somewhere nearby, quickly.

Under environmental protections in place today, Coffin Butte's geology, hydrology, climate, and community placement would never have allowed it to be used for a landfill. The location was not well-chosen, it was simply handy. Expanding upon this deeply flawed location makes no sense.

Point 2 - Inherently inequitable process: The conditional use process underway is the poster child for an uneven playing field. I urge the commissioners to keep in mind that the appellant, Republic Services, is a mega-corporation (\$16+ billion revenue last year), with attorneys and PR manipulators on the corporate clock, paid to do whatever it takes to maximize the landfill's profit.

Opposing this Arizona corporate goliath are local community members with no

outside funding, contributing thousands of hours of their spare time, while attending to the responsibilities of jobs and families. We're fortunate to have smart, high-energy citizens and local experts willing to dedicate themselves to this process for no other reason than protecting their homes, community, and environment.

Please keep these two points in mind as you reach a decision to uphold the Planning Commission's thoughtfully-considered denial. Show our citizens that might does not make right in Benton County.

Respectfully,
Chris Bentley

Rural Benton County
2175 SE Powells Road
Corvallis OR 97333
lbentley@gmail.com

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