

From: Janet Ohmann
To: Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals
Subject: LU-24-027, CUP Application for Expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 11:23:23 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Benton County Board of Commissioners--

Why is Benton County continuing to try to ram this landfill expansion down the throats of County residents, who are overwhelmingly opposed to it???

How did we get here? The April 2025 Staff Report recommended denial of LU-24-027, citing "inadequate technical evidence relating to noise and odor impacts to uses on adjacent properties." In the Supplemental Staff Report of June 2025, this recommendation was reversed, recommending approval with conditions (>80 of them, a giant red flag in itself). The basis was that the Applicant had responded to identified concerns with "expert testimony and evidence." Yet despite the overwhelming public sentiment against the landfill expansion, including much "expert testimony and evidence" supporting a denial, the unanimous vote of the Planning Commission to deny the expansion, and a recommendation by ENRAC to deny the expansion, the October 2025 Staff Report is yet again in favor of expansion. What can possibly explain this???

Adding insult to injury, much of the content of the Staff Report is aimed at discrediting the Planning Commission's decision, rather than scrutinizing the arguments (and "expertise") of the applicant, who stands to make millions of dollars from any expansion. The outright dismissal of the lived experience of neighbors of the landfill (many of us experts in relevant fields) is especially infuriating. This very morning, a gorgeous fall day, I left my house to go for a hike, only to notice the fog lying low in Soap Creek Valley (see attached photo). What should be a beautiful site is instead foreboding, as I know that when the fog rises and dissipates it will bring with it the stench of the landfill, sending me back indoors.

It is both maddening and depressing that our local officials, who should be representing us and looking out for us, are willing to throw us under the bus and rule in favor of a huge corporation from Arizona. Why??? There are ample, well supported reasons to deny the conditional use permit (CUP) application for expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill, and I urge you (Benton County Board of Commissioners) to do so.

Janet L. Ohmann, PhD
Research Forest Ecologist
37609 Soap Creek Rd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

