

From: [Jason Knope](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Cc: [Ken Wells](#)
Subject: City of Junction City - Mayor Letter in Support
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 12:50:48 PM
Attachments: [CJC Wells LetterofSupport 10-16-2025.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon,

Please find attached a letter in support for the Coffin Butte Landfill from Mayor Wells.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jason Knope
City Administrator
City of Junction City

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October 16, 2025

RE: Coffin Butte Landfill Completion Hearing

Dear Commissioners,

As the Mayor of Junction City, I am charged every day with balancing a city budget that must provide essential services with limited resources. Like many small Oregon cities, we operate on tight margins. Every unexpected cost or mandate forces us to make difficult choices—choices that directly affect the services our residents rely on.

The decision before you on Coffin Butte has direct implications for small cities like ours. If this landfill is not completed, waste will need to be transported much farther—to eastern Oregon or even Idaho. Those additional transportation and disposal costs will not disappear. They will be passed down to local governments, to businesses, and ultimately to families. For small cities like Junction City, we simply do not have the budget flexibility to absorb those costs without cutting back elsewhere. That could mean fewer resources for public safety, parks, or street maintenance, all of which are critical to the quality of life our residents expect and deserve.

This is not a debate about whether landfills are popular. It is a practical question of **how we manage an essential service responsibly**. Until there is a fully developed, shovel-ready alternative in place, closing Coffin Butte would amount to putting the cart before the horse. The result would be higher bills for households, tighter budgets for local governments, and financial strain on small businesses already working hard to stay afloat.

I urge you to approve the completion of Coffin Butte. Doing so ensures stability, protects affordability, and allows time for Oregon to develop the next generation of waste solutions without jeopardizing the fiscal health of our small cities in the meantime.

Thank you for your service and for recognizing the very real consequences your decision will have on local governments and the families we serve.

Respectfully,



Kenneth Wells
Mayor of Junction City

