

From: [The Roosevelt Society](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Fwd: Submission for Public Comment: Coffin Butte
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 1:10:41 PM
Attachments: [FINAL Written Testimony of Representative Shelly Boshart Davis Coffin Butte.docx](#)

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.

not sure if this was accepted? The email address on your website changed.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **The Roosevelt Society** <theroosesociety@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 1:09 PM
Subject: Submission for Public Comment: Coffin Butte
To: <publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov>

Representative Shelly Boshart-Davis
Rep.ShellyBoshartDavis@oregonlegislature.gov
900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

Written Testimony of Representative Shelly Boshart Davis
Submitted to the Benton County Board of Commissioners
October 20, 2025

Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Shelly Boshart Davis, and I am the Oregon State Representative for Oregon House District 15, which includes Albany, Millersburg, Tangent, and portions of Linn and Benton Counties. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion.

As a legislator, a small business owner, and a lifelong resident of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley, I view this issue through several lenses — economic, environmental, and practical. Solid waste management may not be a glamorous topic, but it is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of local government and one of the quiet cornerstones of a functioning economy. When it fails, every sector feels it.

Economic Infrastructure and Regional Stability

Coffin Butte is not just a landfill — it is a regional infrastructure asset. Every community, from Corvallis to Albany and well beyond, depends on its continued operation. The site currently manages hundreds of thousands of tons of material annually, and that service supports more than a million Oregonians, as well as the businesses, schools, hospitals, and industries that keep this region moving.

The expansion represents both a continuation and modernization of that service. The facility generates millions of dollars in annual economic activity and local revenue, supporting Benton County through franchise fees, host payments, and employment. Those funds help pay for local roads, emergency services, and environmental monitoring — functions that would otherwise need to come from taxpayers.

If Benton County were to lose that capacity, waste would need to be trucked long distances — in some cases hundreds of miles round-trip — to out-of-county or even out-of-state sites. That outcome would not only be more expensive, it would also generate tens of thousands of additional truck miles, more emissions, more road wear, and higher costs for families and local governments. It's not fiscally sound, and it's not environmentally responsible. Even as a trucking company owner, I would never advocate for additional trucks on the road when it's not necessary and there are other options. All modes of transportation have purpose, and I always advocate for the best, most efficient option.

Environmental Accountability and Innovation

Having toured many industrial and agricultural sites throughout Oregon, I've seen firsthand that progress doesn't happen through prohibition — it happens through investment and innovation. Coffin Butte has demonstrated that principle in action.

The site's gas-to-energy system captures methane that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere and converts it into renewable energy capable of powering thousands of homes. That's not theoretical — it's measurable. The facility's groundwater monitoring, stormwater management, and environmental compliance systems are robust and transparent, regularly reviewed by DEQ and independent auditors.

Expanding at a site with this proven track record is far more responsible than pushing the same volume of waste to other locations that may lack the same oversight or technology. The question is not whether Oregon should handle its waste — it's how we handle it, and Coffin Butte represents one of the best answers to that question.

An Apolitical, Practical Decision

Smart solid waste management should not be a partisan or political issue — it is a question of local accountability, environmental stewardship, and economic prudence. As Commissioners, you have the opportunity to support a plan that safeguards local control, strengthens environmental performance, and ensures affordability for residents and businesses alike.

Oregon's economy depends on predictability. Businesses large and small — including the agricultural and food processing sectors that employ tens of thousands in this region — rely on consistent, affordable waste infrastructure. If that system becomes unreliable, it directly affects production, distribution, and household costs.

The Coffin Butte expansion is a proactive solution that prevents those consequences. It ensures Benton County remains a regional leader in responsible waste management, supporting jobs, revenue, and environmental progress — all while keeping oversight close to home.

Closing

I recognize that this issue has generated passionate debate, but it's important to separate fact from fear. The expansion proposal has undergone years of study, environmental review, and public process. The result is a plan rooted in data, science, and the understanding that every community in Oregon must plan ahead to manage growth and maintain its infrastructure responsibly—now more than ever.

I urge you to move forward with approval of this expansion. Doing so affirms Benton County's commitment to balanced, fact-based governance and provides long-term stability for residents, businesses, and the environment alike.

Thank you for your time and your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Shelly Boshart Davis

Oregon House of Representatives, District 15