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Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 1:10:56 PM
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From: **The Roosevelt Society** <theroosesociety@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 1:09 PM
Subject: Submission to the record: Coffin Butte
To: <publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov>

Senator Bruce Starr
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Public Testimony of Senator Bruce Starr
Oregon State Senator, District 12 & Senate Republican Leader
In Support of the Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion
Submitted to the Benton County Commissioners

Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Bruce Starr, and I serve as the State Senator for District 12 and as the Senate Republican Leader. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my strong support for the conditional use permit for the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion—a decision that is not only practical, but essential for Oregon families and local governments trying to make ends meet.

Let's be clear: Oregon is at a breaking point when it comes to providing essential government services. From our deteriorating transportation infrastructure, to housing & homelessness, to the issue we're discussing today—waste disposal—too many core responsibilities of government are being delayed, defunded, or ignored, often in favor of policy and social principles without solutions ready for implementation. And it's the taxpayers who are left holding the bill.

When government fails to provide reliable, affordable services, the cost is passed down to the people. And in the case of waste management, if we don't move forward with the Coffin Butte expansion, we will see increased costs across the board: more fuel to haul garbage longer distances, higher tipping fees, and rising utility bills for households, businesses, and local governments already under financial stress.

This isn't just a Benton County issue. This is a regional economic issue. The Coffin Butte Landfill serves communities across the Willamette Valley. Expanding it is the most cost-effective option we have today. It uses existing infrastructure, avoids duplication, and gives us the breathing room to plan smarter, more innovative long-term solutions—without disrupting the services people rely on right now.

No one loves the idea of expanding a landfill. But governing means making hard, necessary choices, and this is one of them. Oregon taxpayers deserve solutions that are reliable, affordable, and grounded in economic reality.

Supporting this expansion is not just about waste—it's about showing that we can still make responsible decisions in the face of budget constraints and competing priorities.

I urge you to approve the permit, protect taxpayers, and provide the stability our region needs during these uncertain times.

Thank you for your time, and for your service.

Respectfully,
Senator Bruce Starr
Senate Republican Leader
Oregon State Senator, District 12
