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Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 1:11:09 PM
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From: The Roosevelt Society <theroosesociety@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 1:08 PM
Subject: Submission for Public Record: Coffin Butte
To: <publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov>

Representative Lucetta Elmer
Rep.lucettaelmer@oregonlegislature.gov
900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

October 20, 2025

Public Testimony of Representative Lucetta Elmer

Oregon State Representative, House District 24 & House Republican Leader
In Support of the Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion
Submitted to the Benton County Commissioners

Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Lucetta Elmer, and I serve as the State Representative for House District 24 and as the House Republican Leader. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the conditional use permit for the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion. This is not an easy decision—but it is a necessary one, rooted in common sense, fiscal prudence, and the real needs of Oregon families and local governments.

Across our state, we are facing a growing crisis of capacity—in our infrastructure, in our budgets, and in our ability to deliver essential public services. From our roads and bridges, to our classrooms, to something as fundamental as where our waste goes, too many of Oregon's basic responsibilities are being neglected or deferred in favor of political symbolism over practical solutions. The result is predictable: rising costs, reduced reliability, and a growing burden on taxpayers.

When government doesn't plan ahead, the people pay the price. If this landfill expansion is denied, we will face higher costs across the board—higher tipping fees, increased transportation costs from hauling garbage greater distances, and higher utility bills for households, small businesses, and local governments already stretched to the limit.

This is not just a Benton County issue. Coffin Butte serves as a regional hub for responsible waste management throughout the Willamette Valley. Expanding it allows us to maximize existing infrastructure, avoid duplicative projects, and buy the time we need to pursue innovative, sustainable waste reduction strategies that work for the long term—without jeopardizing affordability and reliability in the short term.

No one celebrates the idea of expanding a landfill. But responsible governance means making tough, informed choices grounded in reality, not rhetoric. We can't simply wish away the basic services that Oregonians depend on. We have to manage them wisely, with a focus on cost efficiency, environmental stewardship, and accountability to the people who fund government with their hard-earned dollars.

Approving this expansion isn't a step backward—it's a step toward stability. It's a demonstration that we can still lead with balance and reason, ensuring Oregonians get dependable, affordable public services today while we plan smarter for tomorrow.

I urge you to approve this permit, protect taxpayers, and reinforce the message that Oregon's local and state leaders are capable of making practical, forward-looking decisions that serve everyone—not just special interests or political agendas.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to Oregon's future.

Respectfully,

Representative Lucetta Elmer

House Republican Leader

Oregon State Representative, District 24