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Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 1:11:45 PM
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From: **The Roosevelt Society** <theroosesociety@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 1:07 PM
Subject: Submissions to the Record for Coffin Butte
To: <publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov>

Please accept these submissions to the record in support of the hearing on 10/22-10/23 on Coffin Butte Landfill.

Representative Darcey Edwards
Rep.darceyedwards@oregonlegislature.gov
900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

Thank you.

Written Testimony of Representative Darcey Edwards

Oregon House District 31

Submitted to the Benton County Commission – Coffin Butte Expansion Hearings

Chair and Commissioners,

For the record, my name is Darcey Edwards, and I have the honor of serving as State Representative for House District 31, which includes Columbia County, and parts of Yamhill, Washington and Multnomah Counties. I also serve on the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment, where I work directly on issues of environmental stewardship, infrastructure, and long-term planning.

Although I do not represent Benton County directly, Coffin Butte is not just a Benton County asset — it is a critical part of Oregon’s solid waste system. Every year, the site manages waste from multiple counties, helping keep costs predictable and services reliable for families, schools, small businesses, and local governments across the Willamette Valley.

Without expansion, Oregon faces a capacity shortfall that will force waste to be transported hundreds of miles away.

You can be sure that preventing the expansion means:

- Higher costs for households, schools, and businesses.
- Greater emissions from long-haul trucking, undermining our state’s climate goals.
- Added strain on highways already struggling with congestion and deferred maintenance.
- Loss of local accountability, responsibility, and management.
- Loss of millions in annual revenue to the county to fund schools, roads, public safety and infrastructure *without* raising taxes on residents.

From my perspective on the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee, these impacts are not hypothetical. Time and again, we see that when Oregon delays investment in core infrastructure — whether in energy, housing, or transportation — the eventual costs multiply. The Coffin Butte expansion represents the kind of forward planning our state needs: building to modern environmental standards, maintaining strong oversight, and ensuring reliable service for the communities that depend on it.

I also want to note the safeguards built into this application. The revised proposal responds to community feedback by keeping Coffin Butte Road intact and ensuring that

future growth remains subject to Benton County's conditional use permitting process. Approving this project is the most practical and responsible path forward. It preserves local control, keeps services affordable, and strengthens Oregon's ability to manage waste sustainably while protecting families and the environment.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support the Coffin Butte expansion.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the community.

Respectfully,

Representative Darcey Edwards

Oregon House District 31