

From: [The Roosevelt Society](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#); [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Please accept into the written record : Coffin Butte Landfill
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Letter: Coffin Butte is essential to the community

Corvallis Gazette-Times - Oct 14

As someone who has spent many years leading the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce and working closely with local businesses, I have seen firsthand how essential Coffin Butte is to the economic health and stability of our region. Businesses and residents across Linn and Benton counties depend on reliable, affordable solid waste services to operate efficiently and plan for the future. Without local capacity, those costs rise quickly — and that affects everything from small business budgets to household expenses, school districts and public services. Coffin Butte is an integral part of the region's infrastructure. Each year, the facility safely manages a significant portion of the solid waste generated by Benton and Linn County communities, including Albany. Its continued operation supports local jobs, contributes millions in economic impact, and helps maintain the affordability of services that businesses and families count on every day. I've also seen Republic Services' role as a community partner — one that invests in local priorities and responds to feedback. The company's \$250,000 contribution to the adaptive playground at the Mid-Willamette Valley YMCA is one example of its commitment to improving quality of life. More recently, the company revised its expansion proposal to reduce its duration and preserve public access to Coffin Butte Road — actions that reflect a willingness to listen and collaborate. This is a complex issue, but also a practical one. Responsible, long-term solid waste planning is essential to a healthy economy.

Janet Steele

Albany

Letter: Lincoln County recycler touts Coffin Butte

Albany Democrat-Herald

My name is Rob Thompson and I am the owner and president of Thompson's Sanitary Service in Newport. We are the family-owned and family-operated collection and recycling company serving Newport for over 60 years and counting. I am writing today to provide context and gather support from Lincoln County citizens regarding the recently denied expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill. All waste collected by Thompsons is disposed of at Coffin Butte Landfill. If Coffin Butte is no longer available, Newport's waste will be transported to other sites that are much further away (likely Arlington or Medford). This will have a significant impact on rates for residential and commercial customers, and at our local transfer stations. Make no mistake, Benton County's mistake of denying the expansion will be paid for from the pockets of Lincoln County's residents. Our mission at Thompsons is to guide sustainable choices. Coffin Butte is heavily regulated and monitored and provides the most environmentally conscious option for our local waste. Trucking waste further creates additional transportation emissions, with no beneficial impact on reduction in waste generation. It pushes our responsibility of our waste onto someone else's environment and community. It fails the test of the environmental justice lens. I encourage all residents of Newport and Lincoln County to stand up and join the coalition to safeguard our environment, and ensure

reliable, affordable waste services for generations to come. Join the Benton Clean and Strong coalition by visiting www.cleanstrongbenton.com and voicing your support.

Rob Thompson

Newport

Letters: Expanding landfill makes financial sense

Corvallis Gazette-Times - Sep. 11

As a former Benton County Solid Waste Advisory Committee member, I know firsthand how critical Coffin Butte is to Benton County's infrastructure. It's the second largest revenue source for our county, contributing millions each year to essential services like schools, roads and public safety. It supports nearly 100 local jobs and generates enough renewable energy to power more than 4,000 homes annually. The landfill is a carefully managed, well-regulated facility that meets environmental standards, captures harmful methane emissions, and invests in technology to improve sustainability and safety. Expanding Coffin Butte is the most responsible path forward. It keeps waste management local, affordable, and under Benton County's control — instead of forcing us into costly, long-haul options that would increase greenhouse gas emissions and raise bills for families, schools, and small businesses. This is about protecting our environment, strengthening our economy, and planning responsibly for the future. I urge the Benton County commissioners to approve the expansion.

Fred Penning

Corvallis

Letter: Landfill should be approached like farming

Corvallis Gazette-Times - Sep 9

As a local farmer (Bashaw Land and Seed) and member of Oregon Women for Agriculture, I have learned that you have to take care of your land today and plan for tomorrow — and the seasons and years still to come. Waste management should be approached the same way. On the farm, we don't get to ignore problems — we fix them. Waste is no different. Every day, families, businesses, and communities create it, and Coffin Butte is where much of it goes. Without expansion, trash would be hauled much farther, driving up costs, putting more trucks on the road, and straining already limited resources. For farmers, planning ahead and being accountable for resources is second nature. That's why keeping a local landfill matters. It gives us oversight here at home instead of shipping responsibility hundreds of miles away. I urge Benton County commissioners to support the expansion of Coffin Butte. It's a practical, forward-looking decision that reflects the same values of responsibility and stewardship that guide those of us who work the land every day.

Marie Bowers

Harrisburg

Letter: Expanding Landfill is about buying time

Albany Democrat-Herald | September 4, 2025

We are in this situation precisely because the hard conversations about waste management have always been pushed to “another day.” That day is now. Coffin Butte’s capacity is finite, and waiting until it’s nearly gone will leave us scrambling for costly, short-term fixes. I spent 15 years on Benton County’s Solid Waste Advisory Council and Disposal Site Advisory Committee. I can tell you that identifying and building new disposal capacity is not a quick or easy process — it takes years. Without expansion, we’ll run out of local options sooner than people think, and by then, the alternatives will be far more expensive and environmentally damaging. Expanding Coffin Butte now isn’t about avoiding the inevitable — it’s about buying ourselves the time we need to plan responsibly. That’s the difference between managing our future and reacting in a crisis. I urge the Benton County commissioners to approve the expansion and act while we still have the ability to choose our path forward.

John Simpkins

Albany

Letter: Coffin Butte owners are good neighbors

Albany Democrat-Herald, Aug 28

In my years of service — both in uniform and as a small business owner — I’ve learned that strong communities are built on strong partnerships. Good businesses don’t just provide a service; they invest in the place they call home. Coffin Butte has been part of our community for decades. It’s a steady, reliable partner that supports local jobs, contributes to our economy, and helps keep our region running smoothly. Like any good neighbor, they show up, do the work, and give back in ways that benefit us all. The proposed expansion is about keeping that partnership strong for the future. When we have local businesses that operate responsibly and consistently support the community, we should be doing what we can to help them continue that work. I urge the Benton County commissioners to support the Coffin Butte expansion and keep this good neighbor part of our community for years to come.

Chris Reese

Letter: Expanding landfill gives us breathing room

Albany Democrat-Herald, Aug 28

Coffin Butte has served this community for decades, providing an essential service most of us rarely think about until it's gone. The proposed expansion is a practical step to ensure we maintain local control, avoid skyrocketing costs, and keep a well-managed facility operating for the next generation. As a certified professional soil scientist with more than a decade of service on Benton County's Solid Waste Advisory Council, I've reviewed annual groundwater reports, studied landfill operations, and seen firsthand the environmental safeguards in place. The data shows groundwater quality improving over time — a sign that careful management and modern landfill practices are working. Without expansion, Benton County will face reduced revenue for essential services like roads, public safety and schools. Expanding Coffin Butte gives us the breathing room to plan for the future responsibly, while keeping these benefits here at home. I urge the Benton County commissioners to approve the expansion and ensure this critical local infrastructure continues serving our community well into the future.

Linda Brewer

[Letter: Albany mayor's opinion about Coffin Butte](#)

Corvallis Gazette-Times, Aug 28

As mayor of Albany, I've always believed that the choices we make today must strengthen our communities for tomorrow. That's why I support the responsible future of Coffin Butte Landfill and encourage residents and leaders to do the same. For me, this is about keeping costs down for hardworking families and protecting good-paying jobs — while making sure Linn and Benton counties remain strong for years to come. If we don't plan ahead, waste will have to be hauled further away, driving up costs for families, schools and small businesses. We can't afford that burden on our community. Coffin Butte also sustains local jobs and provides revenue that supports schools, roads and public safety. It already powers thousands of homes with renewable energy and contributes millions each year to Benton County's general fund. With proper oversight and regulation, it can continue to serve our community safely and responsibly. We owe it to our citizens to make smart choices for the future and for our region. I urge my colleagues and neighbors alike to look at the facts, consider what's best for the people we serve, and support Coffin Butte.

Alex Johnson II

Albany