

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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Attachments: [Steve Peters Testimony.pdf](#)

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Steve Peters

Corvallis Community Band Member; Retired Operations Supervisor, Republic Services Corvallis Division ; Former Varsity Head Coach, Crescent Valley Girls Softball; Former Corvallis Little League Board Member/Safety Officer

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

I don't work for Republic Services any more, so there's really nobody who can stop me from saying anything I want to about the Coffin Butte Landfill and the company's operations in Benton County and the Willamette Valley. **I strongly support the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion.**

After 33 years running route operations out of the Corvallis Hauling Division of Republic Services, I now spend most of my time volunteering and PA Announcing Boys & Girls basketball and football games at Crescent Valley High School. Go Raiders!

I was born and raised in Corvallis and it's where I raised my three kids. I attended Oregon State University from 1986-1989 where I met my wife, studied Community Health with a minor in Occupational Safety, and played Center on the varsity football team. Go Beavs! (#66)

Being a supervisor and being a coach are not all that different – you do a lot of training and encouragement, watching, listening and most importantly keeping your people safe. Just like players, the 27 garbage truck drivers I supervised will tell you more when they feel seen, heard and taken care of.

I started working at Corvallis Disposal after spring term 1987 – they would always hire a football player for the summer. Before I graduated, I got offered a full-time year-round job there. In the Winter of 1990, an opportunity came up to run their medical waste division, which soon included business up in the Portland Metropolitan area, which tied into my degree and experience.

I've always been "the safety guy" – from making sure my team mates and student athletes stretched before practice, to when I served on the Corvallis Little League Board and would fill out the paperwork when a kid broke their arm.

People don't realize how dangerous the solid waste industry is. Safety at Republic Services is job #1 – making sure drivers get to go home to their families every night. The extensive 10-week training for new driver hires is second to none, and ongoing weekly safety training continually puts our drivers in the best possible place to succeed. We additionally do 2-3 in-cab ride-alongs with drivers every week to mitigate problem areas and make suggestions on how to offer the

best service on-route. These are good jobs where you can go home to your family every night, and our locally raised team works to make sure they do so safely.

To this day I'm proud of how we showed up for our workers and the community during Covid: directives came down from the Corporate Office to provide 'above and beyond support': support the community food shelters (Gleaners) with catered in food, sending meals home, feeding our people, and to do so supporting local restaurants – who by the way after making it through Covid DO NOT need a price hike because their waste is travelling 200+ miles.

You don't have to listen to old football players and garbage men like me, but here's what I'll tell you: the local men and women who show up to work at Coffin Butte and the Corvallis Division do good work day in, day out and care about their communities.

Republic Services is a good company, made up of local people, and the Corvallis division is considered the "model" division – the best there is.

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