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To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
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Subject: Uphold Denial of LU-24-027 - Submittal two of two
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Dear Benton County Commissioners:

The issue before you today is very specific: whether to approve or deny the appeal of the request to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. The Institute for Energy and Resource Management (IeRM) has submitted specific comments on that request. However, we feel that this is also an opportunity to consider longer term changes in the direction of waste management for the County and the region, given that most of what now goes into the landfill is from elsewhere. **We strongly recommend to stop landfilling and changing to an Integrated Waste Management System (IWMS).**

IeRM is a non-profit, 501c3 organization dedicated to scientific research and education in the field of solid waste management. We have assembled a team of experts with many decades of experience in designing, implementing, and managing solid waste facilities and programs, both in the US and Europe. Based on this experience and expertise, we can state unequivocally that landfilling is the most harmful, the most expensive, and the most wasteful method of disposal.

Landfilling has been virtually eliminated in several countries in Europe for many years, and has been banned in the European Union, where a transition to a better system is taking place. The reasons for this are clear and proven in for example Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and many others that took the step to ban landfilling decades ago. Over the past twenty years, for example, the adoption of an IWMS in Germany has resulted in annual reductions of at least 50 million tons of methane emissions, the elimination of leachate contamination of soil and ground water, and the prevention of noxious odors and other local problems. Using the example of Germany, it has brought about a real and verified recycling rate of over 60%, the recovery of valuable materials including aluminum, steel, and rare earths, that make about 17-18% of the raw materials used in product manufacturing, contributing significantly to national security and the establishment of a circular economy. And it has resulted in annual savings of 80 million Euros, the creation of more than 250,000 local jobs, and a healthier and more stable economy.

The transition away from landfilling to an IWMS will take several years and will only succeed if landfilling is banned by a time certain. The longer we wait, the more damage is done to the environment, the more valuable materials are wasted, and the more expensive the system becomes. We urge you to take action to begin the shift to an IWMS and stop landfilling waste and **deny the application for expansion.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann
President and CEO, IeRM

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