

From: [John Horvick](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#); [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Public comment related to LU-24-027
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:55:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
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[Coffin Butte Landfill survey memo -- October 2025.pdf](#)

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Please see the attached public comment related to LU-24-027.

Thank you,

J

John Horvick | Senior Vice President



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October 20, 2025

To: Benton County Board of Commissioners Office
P.O. Box 3020, Corvallis, OR 97339
From: John Horvick, Senior Vice President, DHM Research
Re: Coffin Butte Landfill Survey Results **related to LU-24-027**

Via email submission to: landfillappeals@bentoncountyor.gov,
publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov

Research Overview

Research conducted by DHM Research shows that Benton County residents agree that there are many good reasons for the Coffin Butte Expansion, including important environmental, economic, and local benefits the landfill provides.

Importantly, these views come from people who know the community well. 63% of survey respondents have lived in Benton County for ten years or more, reflecting long-term experience and perspective on local issues.

Key findings

Benton County residents are broadly satisfied with their garbage services and have a positive impression of Republic Services.

- **85%** of residents are satisfied with the quality of garbage services.
- **65%** have a positive impression of Republic Services.

The landfill is **not seen as a top community issue**. When asked what they consider the most important problem facing Benton County, only **2%** mentioned Coffin Butte.

Why Benton County voters think expansion is a good idea

- When residents learned that **hauling garbage farther away increases carbon pollution and traffic congestion**, **60%** said this is a good reason to support expansion. Keeping waste management local reduces emissions, fuel use, and truck traffic on regional roads.
- **58%** said that with **two nearby landfills closing within five years**, Benton County needs to plan now to ensure affordable, reliable service in the future.

- Community investment matters to voters. **62%** said Republic Services' **half-million-dollar annual contribution** to local jobs, services, charitable causes, and roadside cleanup is a good reason to support the project. Residents believe the county should back businesses that reinvest locally, not drive them away.
- **60%** said **Coffin Butte's nearly \$6 million in annual revenue** to the county—its second-largest source of discretionary funding after property taxes—is a good reason to approve the permit. That revenue supports essential services like public safety, transportation, and health programs.
- Affordability continues to resonate strongly. **64% said the likelihood of higher service costs for families and small businesses is a good reason to approve the expansion.** Residents want to keep costs low and avoid passing financial burdens onto households already feeling strain.
- Job stability also plays a role. **55%** said protecting **97 local family-wage jobs** and **1,400 direct and indirect jobs statewide** tied to Coffin Butte is a good reason to move forward.
- **66%** said supporting **Coffin Butte's capture of landfill gas to power roughly 4,000 homes**—making it the largest renewable-energy provider in Benton County—is a good reason to approve the expansion.

Conclusion

Benton County residents are satisfied with the garbage service, feel positive towards Republic Services, and find the benefits of Coffin Butte Landfill expansion. Residents see the project as a practical, common-sense solution that protects essential services, keeps costs affordable, and sustains Benton County's leadership in renewable energy.

Research Methodology

From July 16 to 22, 2025, DHM Research conducted a survey with 300 Benton County registered voters about the Coffin Butte Landfill. Voters were contacted by telephone calls and text messages directing respondents to an online survey. To ensure a representative sample, quotas were set to match the county's adult population by gender, age, race and ethnicity, education, income, and area, and data were weighted by homeownership status. The survey margin of error is $\pm 5.7\%$.

About DHM Research

DHM Research is a nonpartisan, independent firm with over 45 years of experience conducting public opinion studies across the Pacific Northwest. The firm specializes in research that informs public policy, community engagement, and strategic communications.