

LU-24-027 IN-PERSON TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL COVER SHEET

Received From: Linda Hardison

Date: 10/22/2025

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BOC ID: BOC 1

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25310 Bull Run Rd
Monroe, OR 97456
21 October 2025

Benton County Board of Commissioners
4500 SW Research Way Suite 100
Corvallis, OR 97333

Subject: LU-24-027—please uphold denial to expand Coffin Butte Landfill

Dear Benton County Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd:

As a Benton County resident, I am requesting that you uphold your Planning Commission's July 2025 unanimous denial of LU-24-027, Republic Services' application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

I lived for 25 years—from 1996 – 2021—at the upper (southwest) end of Soap Creek Valley. We lived 5 miles away from the landfill, yet there were many days when dump odors reached our home. The dump negatively impacted my and my child's recreation in Soap Creek Valley—when bicycling, running, playing by the creek at friend's houses, we often felt the specter of the dump's smell, noise, and ugliness.

But it's about much more than my personal discomfort: the proposed expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill is an environmental disaster that can and must be prevented:

- Methane leaking from the landfill was documented by EPA in 2022—yet reinspection in 2024 showed *more* leaks. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate damage.
- Leachate from the dump pollutes the groundwater. What leachate is collected is dumped into the Willamette after treatment by a facility not designed to handle the quantities of toxic industrial chemicals that Republic Services accepts at the landfill.
- The wet Willamette Valley is a bad location to site any landfill—a dry locale, with clay soil layers (not the fractured basalt underneath Coffin Butte), located away from population centers **and away from wildfire and Cascadia earthquake hazards**, is far preferable.

I am a botanist, as was my late husband. We both have done plant surveys in the region— at the Adair Rifle Range, the OSU Beef Ranch, and throughout McDonald/Dunn Forest. The wet meadows and the nearby oak savanna and woodlands are especially sensitive habitats. Negative alteration through landfill traffic, toxic leachate, hydrological disturbance, and air pollution is an ever-present threat, and will accelerate with any expansion of the landfill.

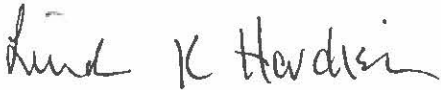
Economically, a landfill expansion is a liability to the county.

Environmentally, expansion is a hazard to current and future residents of the region—humans, plants, and wildlife.

Please follow the unanimous findings of your Planning Commission and reject LU-24-027.

Thank you for your service in our local government, and for protecting the health and well-being of Benton County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda K Hardison".

Linda Hardison
25310 Bull Run Rd
Monroe, OR 97456