

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

Received From: Melissa Livingston

Date: 10/23/25

Email: _____

Phone: 925-337-3729

Address: 3619 SE Coral Reef Place, ~~Fla~~

City, State, Zip: Canvallis, OR 97333

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Board of Commissioners Office (Suite 100)
4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333

Dear Commissioners Wyse, Malone, and Shepherd,

My name is Melissa Livingston, and I live in Corvallis, Oregon. I am writing once again to urge you to **uphold the Planning Commission's unanimous denial** of Republic Services' application (LU-24-027) to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

The Planning Commission's 7-0 vote reflected a thorough and evidence-based evaluation that concluded the proposal failed to meet Benton County's required **Burden of Proof** under County Code 53.215(1) and (2). Their decision was grounded in both data and lived experience from residents who endure the impacts of this massive industrial operation every day. The applicant has not provided any new or convincing evidence to warrant reversal of that decision.

An expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill would:

- **Intensify environmental and public health risks**, including methane and PFAS emissions, toxic leachate generation, and potential fire hazards.
- **Impose undue burdens on local infrastructure and safety services**, particularly fire protection, road maintenance, and emergency response systems.
- **Exacerbate odor, noise, and litter problems** that already degrade the quality of life for neighboring residents and visitors.
- **Contradict Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative**, which emphasizes environmental stewardship, sustainability, and public health.

It is deeply concerning that a corporation headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona—**with no local accountability**—continues to push for an expansion that would transform Coffin Butte into a "forever landfill." Benton County residents and the Planning Commission have spoken clearly: **this is not compatible with our community's values or long-term vision.**

Rather than doubling down on outdated waste practices, Benton County should focus on **modern, sustainable waste solutions** that reduce landfill dependency and protect our air, water, and soil for future generations.

Please stand with your constituents and uphold the Planning Commission's denial of LU-24-027. Protect Benton County's reputation for clean water, vibrant farmlands, outdoor recreation, and innovation—not the interests of an out-of-state corporation.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued commitment to the health and future of our community.

Sincerely,
Melissa Livingston

3619 SE Coral Reef Place, Corvallis, OR. 97333

(925)337-3729

Melissa Livingston
3619 SE Coral Reef Pl
Corvallis, OR. 97333

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Benton County
Board of Commissioners Office (Suite 100)
4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR. 97333

97333-109300

