

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

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October 22, 2025

To: Benton County Board of Commissioners

Re: LU-24-027, Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion Conditional Use Permit
Application

I am writing to urge you to uphold the Benton County Planning Commission's denial of Republic Services request to expand Coffin Butte Landfill.

I write to express my opposition to the ill-conceived plan to expand a landfill that is creating an undue burden on residents of Soap Creek Valley and on properties adjacent to and in close proximity to the current dump.

As a registered nurse with expertise in the health impacts of endocrine-disrupting synthetic chemicals, I urge each of you to consider the numerous health impacts from PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl substances, also known as "forever chemicals". As an environmental journalist who specializes in plastics pollution and health, I bring specialized expertise to this hearing.

PFAS accompany gases emitted by Coffin Butte Landfill. Considering the EPA's findings of dangerously high levels of methane gas emitted by Coffin Butte Landfill, it is safe to deduce that the levels of PFAS emitted as air pollutants is also at a dangerously high level.

Landfills emit higher concentrations of PFAS than levels of PFAS found in leachate, the toxics-contaminated liquid formed within dumps as organic matter degrades.

PFAS are called "forever" because these chemical compounds do not break down. They accumulate in the body creating what is known as "body burden".

Scientific concensus is: there is no safe level of exposure to PFAS.

A growing body of peer-reviewed scientific studies link exposure to PFAS to obesity, diabetes, reduced fertility, premature births, neurological deficits, liver disease, low birth weight, immunity disorders and hypertension, among other conditions. PFAS are also known carcinogens.

PFAS are a class of synthetic chemicals used in clothing, food packaging, hygiene products, textiles, furniture, clothing, and cookware to prevent stains, create non-stick surfaces and repel water. Things like gortex jackets, carpeting, chip bags, cosmetics, and teflon pans.

Household items that get discarded in trash bins or dumpsters Republic Services collects and deposits by the ton in Coffin Butte landfill.

Within the darkness of all that buried stuff we throw "away" a toxic stew forms and festers, releasing well over 16,000 synthetic chemicals (most of which are NOT tested for safety) that DO NOT STAY PUT. Those chemical either leave the landfill as they arrived, or in new, unknown chemical combinations formed within

the toxic stew, along with the extremely high levels of methane, into the air as UNREGULATED, harmful pollutants known to cause numerous health problems.

The existing landfill will continue to leak gases and air toxicants that create an undue burden on residents within a 5 mileas radius of the dump past its current life span.

Benton County residents who inhale PFAS emitted by the landfill will endure the health impacts from long term exposure to these harmful synthetic chemicals. Developing fetuses will experience disruption in well-orchestrated development from exposure to PFAS in utero, causing serious health conditions including low IQ and behavioral problems as the child ages.

Benton County residents are at high risk of carrying an undue burden from exposure to PFAS emitted by the dump owned by Republic Services, a private company that has consistently disregarded EPA and DEQ regulations cited in the public testimony of community experts who also oppose the expansion.

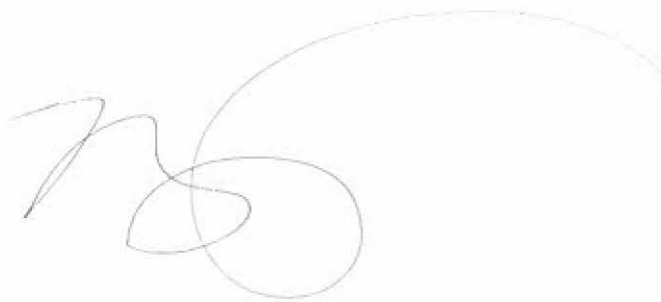
Expanding this municipal dump (in name only, as it is an industrial wasteland due to the concentration of heavy metals, radiation, flame retardants, macro- micro- and nano plastics, and tens of thousands of synthetic chemicals it only partially contains within its property lines) will expand the volume of trash coming into Benton County, against the interests and desire of its residents.

Expanding the volume of trash will expand the volume of air pollution, creating an increased risk of exposure to "forever chemicals", which will cause harm, an undue burden, to the health of Benton County residents.

I urge you to deny Republic Services' dogged attempt to expand the landfill, a plan that clearly puts profit over the people who carry the undue burden of the dump's toxicity.

Thank you.

Cordially,
Eliza Murphy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by a cursive 'M'.

Studies cited:

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.estlett.4c00364>

<https://www.endocrine.org/topics/edc/what-edcs-are/common-edcs/pfas>

<https://www.endocrine.org/news-and-advocacy/news-room/2024/latest-science-shows-endocrine-disrupting-chemicals-in-pose-health-threats-globally>

<https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/pollution-and-health/persistent-organic-pollutants-pops/and>