

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

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BOC ID: BOC2

IDENTIFIER: TO 668

Greetings, commissioners. Mr. Malone, it's a pleasure to meet you in person. Nancy and Gabe, it's good to see you again, and good to be here with everyone tonight.

My name is Kiko Denzer. I live at 928 n. 9th in Philomath.

First I want to appreciate all the work, time, and commitment assembled here: yours, of course, but especially that of all the citizens who have given so much of their unpaid professional expertise and years of legwork on behalf of our community. I do believe that all of us, together, can help insure that a government of the people, by the people and for the people does not perish.

First, I'd like to discuss the word "adjacent:"

Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Mr. Condit's "8th justice," also says that the meaning of adjacent is "*not distant or far off... nearby but not touching...*" Literary examples cited therein include a phrase about "islands and the adjacent mainland coast." We might ask, what makes an island adjacent to the mainland? Obviously, the sea. Hawaii is a long half day by plane from Portland, but both Oregon and China offer adjacent coastlines.

It seems to me, then, that the 8th justice might agree that "adjacent" accurately applies to not just two layers of parcels abutting the landfill, but also the counties that dispose of their trash here. Last night's testimony from Lincoln and Yamhill certainly affirms such usage.

The 8th justice also defines adjacent as "nearby but not touching." Where does someone have to stand to be "near" Coffin Butte? Visual context would simply be near enough to see the dump. Olfactory context must be near enough to smell the dump; we have reports from at least as far as Philomath. Economic context must include things like the real estate and tourism markets, as well as trade. Environmental context must include the climate-warming effects of methane plumes in the air and toxin-laden leachate in the water. It seems to me then, that like an island in the sea, it would be reasonable to say that Coffin Butte, with its methane and PFAS, is adjacent, not only to nearby states, but to every land mass that shares the same seas, the same air, and the changing weather they generate.

I would also like to look at the word "character," as in "character of the area."

Let's consider motive. To reduce actual rates of disposal would reduce revenues and profits for a company whose ruling motive is to produce profits for investors. Republic Services, because they own abutting properties zoned for waste disposal, defines the "character of the area" as narrowly limited to waste disposal. But such a circular statement is not a valid argument.

Environmental damage impacts the character of *all* our homes and *all* our lives. To ignore that simple truth harms everyone and ultimately benefits noone. So it seems to me that your duty to us and all your constituents, as well as to the law demands that you consider *all the impacts and all the arguments* opposing expansion.

I understand, however, that various advisors tell you to ignore this kind of evidence and testimony.

So I have a question: am I right in thinking that you've all taken an oath of office?

And did you pledge to uphold the constitution of the state of Oregon?

The copy I found says that *No law shall in any case whatever...interfere with the rights of conscience.*

It also says that "*power is inherent in the people,*" and that their power — not narrowly-interpreted county code, contract law, or questionable arguments from parties with clear and selfish financial motives — authorizes government. So it seems clear to me that in this hearing, neither numbers nor reasoned argument would provide the consent needed to approve expansion.

A government "*of the people, by the people, and for the people,*" asks us to work together, not just as paid employees and moneyed developers, but as citizens, as neighbors, as volunteers, and as parents and grandparents of children who will have to deal with our trash and our poisons for generations to come.

We ask you to work *with us*, so that we can protect all our lives and all our liberties, as well as our right to live without fear of being poisoned, and without fear of poisoning the yet unborn children who will inherit this dump and everything in it.