

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

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Written statement in opposition to the Landfill expansion

Submitted by Peg Herring, 34386 Colorado Lake Drive, Corvallis

Thank you, Commissioners, for being here to listen with open minds. Your job is complex. But it is made almost impossible without all the facts necessary to make informed decisions for the health and well-being of the people you serve.

It became clear during last night's hearing that you are not working with a full set of facts.

The Planning Staff has built a wall around this decision-making process, a wall that limits allowable testimony to a narrow, arbitrary list of grievances; a wall that keeps out critical discussion of the environmental & economic costs and the options for Benton County.

When asked about these limits at last night's hearing, the Planning Staff implied it was to avoid legal action.

Legal action from whom? on what grounds? Is this a scare tactic? Is this a threat?

Commissioners, you don't need to be afraid of Republic Services.

You have the legal and statutory power to stop this expansion. That decision will allow Benton County 15 years to build and implement a sustainable option for waste management in the mid-Willamette Valley.

Many of the people who gave testimony in support of the expansion spoke of their desire to have a better option. The County has already started this work with *Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT)*. A landfill expansion will only expand the problem and delay the solution.

Commissioners, please don't let the important work begun by BCTT be derailed by this decision. Request all the information you need to make a fully informed decision about this disastrous landfill expansion.

Thank you.