

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

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October 22nd, 2025

Dear Commissioners,

I strongly oppose any expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill.

I am a four-year resident of Adair Village, a ten-year resident of Benton County. A parent to 4 growing children. An office administrative professional for most of the past 20 years.

I drive Highway 99 almost daily and pass by the mountain of trash, that doesn't need to be as large as it already is, because so much of the trash is brought in from other areas. I see piles of trash strewn all over the sides of the road, much of it on people's private property. This location, in wet Pacific NW Oregon, well known for its soggy wet winters is a terrible location for a landfill. It is close to a huge river, which Republic is actively destroying with disgusting pollution, and Benton County has allowed to happen (though I have heard that the practice of dumping leachate into the Willamette is supposed to cease soon. I hope this change does indeed happen and perhaps the river might start to heal.)

Coffin Butte is set amongst many homes, including farms, and very close to a school. All these families and the physical environment are being actively contaminated with garbage-junk daily. The idea of an expansion is completely irresponsible, unhealthy, and totally out of touch with the needs of the community.

I firmly believe it is Republic's responsibility to find a location better suited to a landfill. Oregon has plenty of drier climates, and more isolated areas where a landfill could exist much more safely. The problem is theirs to solve, not to literally dump on our laps at vast expense to Benton County, but specifically to Adair Village, Soap Creek Valley and surrounds. Aside from financial gain from the county, who would benefit? And I think it's possible to argue about the ethics of the county accepting money from Republic while actually trashing the community, landscape and residents in this area.

As an observer of the practices of Republic, I would say this: I watch the trash trucks barrel through the neighborhood- though not all drivers are careless, some of them seem in a rush, and not caring about how they do the job. On several occasions, after pick up, trash cans or recycling bins are tipped over on their sides, or in the street, sometimes the trash itself has spilled out of the can and instead of cleaning it up, the driver just moves on to the next house. In what industry is that acceptable practice??

As an office administrator, if I cause an error in a client's accounts, I absolutely am required to fix what I have done, not leave it for someone else to deal with!

When I drive Highway 99, and watch truck drivers fly down the highway with the backs/ tops of their trucks wide open and not secured- remaining trash comes streaming out of the tops. Is it company policy to close the lids of the trucks as they leave? Shouldn't it be? And if it is, who is enforcing it? I have heard testimony of former employees speak of irresponsible practices at the landfill.

Lastly, Republic is asking for this expansion, but they have asked before and we the people said NO. NO we do not want this expansion. They came and asked again. NO we do not want it. They forced our community to go through this whole process again, to again say NO WE DO NOT WANT YOUR EXPANSION. And they will not take no for an answer. It seems to me that a company that has a workplace culture of disregarding rules, carelessness, and causing destruction for the community, frankly has no business being here at all, at least not as they currently operate, let alone being allowed to expand. I don't see anyway to kick them out all together, though that is what I would prefer to happen, if I am being honest. However, it seems that the county needs to be holding them accountable to being a business that benefits the community, instead of harming us.

One last thought. As a parent, in these modern times, teaching our kids consent is a popular discussion, and one that is very important. As I mentioned above- we have told Republic NO multiple times. They refuse to listen. If we want to set an example of holding boundaries and fighting corruption, fighting for the health and safety of our children, our future, of the environment....

I believe the only responsible decision is to adamantly Deny any expansion.

Please continue to uphold the Planning Commission's unanimous denial of LU-24-027.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Bryanna S.