

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

Received From: Shawn Wakenza

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Email: swakenza@gmail.com

Phone: 541 602 8998

Address: 1415 Greenwood Pl Corvallis

City, State, Zip: Corvallis OR 97330

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IDENTIFIER: T0679

Thank you.

Clean air, water, and soil are precious irreplaceable resources. We must not expand the degrading our forever environment here in Benton County.

There's a strong link between wet conditions and leachate in landfills- they are well known to be a main source of PFAS forever chemicals contained in liquid leachate or escaped via landfill gasses.

These are more than 10,000 synthetic chemicals used in industrial and everyday items.

According to the EPA's **Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS**

Exposures can be high when people are exposed to a concentrated source, like a landfill, over long periods of time- by swallowing contaminated soil or dust or breathing air containing PFAS. Some PFAS accumulate in the body over time.

And because children are still developing, they are more sensitive to the harmful effects.

Once PFAS enter the environment, it is difficult to remove them as they include a large number of individual compounds with low concentrations.

Key is not to disperse them - this happens when abundant leachate is created at CoffinButte and then escapes via landfill gasses or is disposed of in the Willamette River.

The issue is the irreversibility of contamination in the environment, and effects on brain development of children, endocrine disrupting effects, carcinogenicity, toxicity to reproduction, effects on immune system, and lipid metabolism for a broad range of PFAS.

Please safeguard us, your constituents, and our environment and oppose this expansion.

Thank you.

Susan Walenza

