

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

Received From: Julie Smircic

Date: 10/23/25

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10/23/25

To the Benton County Commissioners:

My name is Julie Smircic. I am a licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of Oregon. I am here to state my opposition to the proposed expansion.

As a 20-year veteran in the health and mental-health fields, I am acutely aware of the link between environmental conditions and human well-being. When we allow the environment to become sick, the people become sick — physically, mentally, emotionally. Our capacity to participate as creative, vibrant members of the community becomes greatly diminished. I am asking you to deny this expansion to protect our health.

The leachate contamination of the Willamette River should give us all serious pause. Communities downstream are also being poisoned by runoff from this landfill. Perhaps DEQ will eventually address it, but it has not done so yet. **Right now you are the only decision-makers positioned to take effective action. Please use this opportunity.**

I understand leachate is technically beyond the scope of this CUP. But it is not beyond the scope of our shared responsibility. **Water is life.** An expansion will only produce more leachate, more harm.

Your task is to hold the big picture of present and future health — while crafting a denial that is legally bullet-proof under the narrow confines of the CUP review. You have been given the record, the evidence, and all the testimony you need to be successful.

The joint letter of opposition from Senator Gelser and Representative McDonald makes one thing very clear: **When you say no, you will be supported.** They will have your backs. We will have your backs.

I urge you to hold the line. Deny this expansion. I know this is difficult but that's because it really matters.

**Please — make us proud.**

Thank you,

Julie

Julie Smircic, LCSW

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