

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

Received From: Dr. Helmut Schnurer

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr. Helmut Schnurer,

This letter is submitted in response to matters raised on the record of the Benton County Board of Commissioner's hearing of October 22 and 23, 2025.

From 1980 until 2006 I was the Director of the Federal Ministry of the Environment of Germany in charge of waste and water management. I was the direct advisor of the German Federal Minister of the Environment.

I played a key role in the German and European Union policy changes to phase out landfilling.

I have been invited by many governments across the globe to advise them regarding waste and water management.

During my tenure, Germany moved from landfilling to an Integrated Waste Management System. Today, Germany landfills less than 1% of its Municipal Solid and similar waste which is less than 300,000 tons/year and all inert. Germany is a country home to over 83Mio inhabitants. Inert means the waste no longer reacts with air, soil, and water.

The move away from landfilling was necessary as the scientific evidence when evaluating the impacts of landfilling and looking at alternatives provided clear indication that any kind of landfilling (no matter what kind of landfill except inert materials) is the worst option managing solid waste. Our focus in Germany regarding solid waste management is on the impacts to Public Health (the protection of people), the environment, sustainable resource management, and overall economic performance. We often hear that Germany stopped landfilling because we ran out of space. That is not the case as Germany has over 500 years of landfill capacity left. Landfilling, in simple terms, is the worst option environmentally, as well as economically. For the past 20 years I have mentored and worked closely with IeRM's CEO, Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann. I am a Founding Board member of IeRM.

This is my expert opinion regarding the Coffin Butte landfill expansion proposed by Republic:

The expansion of the existing landfill will mean that the negative environmental impacts will continue to burden nature and people in the area, that urgently needed protective measures to contain the dangers from the expansion cannot be given and that waste disposal in the region will continue to be environmentally harmful for as long as landfilling continues and that necessary modern methods of an integrated waste management will be disregarded.

The expansion of the existing landfill site will mean that the negative environmental impacts will continue to affect nature and people in the surrounding area, that possible measures to mitigate the risks will not be taken, and that waste disposal in the region will continue to be environmentally harmful for a long time to come, with no modern integrated waste management processes being implemented.

When considering 53.215 Criteria: 'The decision to approve a conditional use permit shall be based on findings that

Re 1 – The proposed use does not seriously interfere with uses on adjunct property, with the character of the area, or with the purpose of the zone' will be violated, as the intended use (as a landfill expansion) will:

- a) Significantly impair the use of the adjacent area due to inadequate safety distances, emissions of toxic gases into the atmosphere, and be detrimental to ground- and drinking water.
- b) Negatively influence the character of the area and the purpose of the zone in the long term due to its immediate proximity to an environmentally hazardous operation.

Re 2 – 'The proposed use does not impose and undue burden on any public improvements, facilities, utilities, or services available to the area', will also be violated as the intended use (as a landfill expansion) will:

- a) Significantly impact the planned use of the neighborhood of the area in question as an expansion to the landfill represents a considerable burden on public infrastructure improvements, land use, new developments, sensitive businesses (air pollution control, supply of clean groundwater) and existing service providers (damage to image, concern about contamination).
- b) Added to this are the exponential high costs of the necessary monitoring of the environmental situation in the vicinity of a landfill site."

Sincerely,

Dr. Helmut Schnurer
Kasbach-Ohlenberg, IeRM Germany

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