

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

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Date: October 29, 2025
To: Members of the Benton County Board of Commissioners
Re: Application designation LU-24-027

I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE approval of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) submitted by Republic Services & Valley Landfills, Inc.

After attending the nearly 11 hours of the Benton County Board of Commissioner hearings that were held on October 23-24, 2025, it is apparent that there is no way to enforce any of the conditions of approval that were listed in the Benton County staff report.

What was once a pit that was dug in the 1940's to dispose of trash from Camp Adair has morphed into a "regional landfill" servicing 22 counties. Of these 22 counties, Benton County citizens alone endure the stink, the traffic, the litter and the long-term health risks. At the BCBC hearings, a few citizens from Newport (Lincoln County) and Newburg (Yamhill County) voiced their support for the landfill expansion & one person even voiced regret that Benton County is stuck being the host of a methane-emitting, leachate-producing, mountain of trash. The result of approval of the CUP will be to create a SECOND mountain of trash & more leachate.

Earlier this year, Corvallis, OR, was named the "best college town in the Pacific Northwest" by World Atlas. Let's hope that we don't lose that designation and wind up with "humorous" logos that show a beaver using a clothespin to block the stink emitted by the expanded landfill.

Each time that Benton County has faced requests for expansion of the landfill, there have been public officials who have said that the landfill needs to close. Yet here we are in 2025 facing another CUP request. This is not the time to roll over. In 2025 we know about the methane emissions, we know about the carcinogens in the aerosols, we know about the toxicity of the leachate that comes out of the landfill. The list goes on and on, and yet our community members, our pets and livestock continue to be exposed.

I thank all of the Benton County staff, elected officials and volunteer commission members who have put so much effort on Conditional Use Permit Application designation LU-24-027. The Benton County Commissioners know they do not have the means to enforce the Conditions of Approval, but they do have the discretion to deny the CUP, they have the authority to deny the CUP, and they have the responsibility and duty to protect the citizens of Benton County.

Suzanne V. Ortiz
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