

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

Received From: Rachel C Biscoe

Date: October 29th 2025

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Rachel Biscoe
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Dear Commissioners,

This testimony is submitted in response to matters raised on the record during the Board of Commissioners Hearing of October 22nd and 23rd, 2025, in regards to LU-24-027. I am submitting this testimony to request that you deny the Coffin Butte Landfill application.

I would like to start by thanking you for the time and effort you are putting into listening to and or reading the testimonies of your constituents and community members. I know it takes time away from your families and yourselves to do the important work you have been elected to do.

I grew up in Benton County and spent much of my time learning about plants, animals, my local area, and the necessities that come with a growing community. I remember driving past the dump when I was about 10 years old and thinking it was another hill to climb just for the fun of it. About the time I turned 12, I became an active 4-H member and spent an increasing amount of time in the Corvallis and Albany areas. My local 4-H club meetings were a mere 5 miles from the landfill at the time and my parents and I always had to drive past the landfill to get to my meetings. Over the years, the landfill that I once thought was a hill to climb became a giant mountain, taking over the landscape one truck dump at a time.

During middle and high school, I became more active in my local community. I volunteered at a gleaner group for much of my life, but as I got older, I was able to go on field gleans or pickups from local farms and vendors. I remember driving past, looking up at the increasingly growing landfill, to stopping by a local farm to get plants for our program. I had to hold my breath and cover my nose with a mask for the entire time we were there. And that was nearly 10 years ago. The stench that emitted from the landfill was unbearable, and I had to take breaks sitting in the vehicle to get a good

breath of clean air. I can not even begin to imagine what it would be like to live under that.

In my junior and senior years of high school, I graduated from one Emergency Medical Responder and two Firefighter courses in order to become an active Emergency Medical Responder and structure and wildland Firefighter. I spent two years with the fire department, during which time I learned many lessons, tactics, and risks associated with multi-material fires and the impacts it has not only on the environment and wildlife but the people as well.

The landfill is filled with some known and some unknown substances, toxins, and chemicals that can cause damage to land, water, crops, animals, and people in so many different ways. When those materials come in contact with a fire, some may explode, some react and emit more harmful chemicals and toxins into the air we breathe and into the water systems. While there are procedures for mitigating issues, there can always be more preparation and maintenance for the protection of the local communities.

As mentioned before in the day one presentation from the applicant, there will be one 4,000-gallon fire truck on site for fire suppression if needed, and the Adair Village Fire Department will respond if the fire becomes larger than manageable by the onsite truck. In further written testimony, the current Adair Village Fire Chief Harris said that they may not have the capacity to respond as backup due to reduced staffing and potential department unsustainability. I want to point out that while 4,000 gallons seems like a lot, depending on the situation, including fire load, fire size, hose diameter, nozzle type, and flow of water usage, one 4,000-gallon fire truck could last only a couple of minutes.

Depending on traffic and response time, it could be 9+ minutes before the Adair Village Fire Department could get backup vehicles and water to the landfill site. And backup from the Corvallis Fire Department, depending on location, traffic, and response time, could be 12-27 minutes or more to assist with fire suppression and control. If other departments are needed, it would take even longer. The water in the onsite fire truck would be long depleted, and the fire would have the potential to run rampant through the immense amount of chemicals, metals, reactants, and other materials that

are mixed to make up the landfill. This not only poses a much greater danger to the responders, workers, and residents, but it also requires more than just normal water to suppress; a solution has to be created to put out certain fires effectively and safely. The applicant must have backup resources and partnerships that allow a safe environment and provide adequate coverage if something goes wrong. Without it, people's lives, their homes, and our community are at great risk.

I used to go hiking with my friends and family on local Corvallis Hiking trails in the McDonald Research Forest, including Peavy Park Perimeter Loop, Cronemiller Lake, Calloway Creek Loop, and Vineyard Mountain Loop. All of which are within 2.5-8 miles from the landfill. One of my favorite trails is the Vineyard Mountain loop, and I used to hike there frequently. During the cold mornings when the fog was heavy, you could not smell much coming from the landfill. However, on the warmer summer days, the stench was overwhelming. This trail is one of the farthest from the landfill; all the ones closer to the landfill, I stopped hiking at due to the smell becoming too much and taking away the peace of the hike.

My family and my partner's family often drove past the landfill on our way to or from other events or trips. More often than not, we could still smell it all the way down Camp Adair Village road and on hot summer days to Hwy 20 heading towards Albany. We always had to cover our noses and mouths, change the air cycle from outside in the car to only inside the car, or hold our breath until we got a couple of miles away from the landfill. We have now worked to find alternative routes of travel so we do not have to adjust our breathing or air flows.

I do not want to continue to watch the landfill expand until it has no boundaries, while garbage floats into nearby lands, the lakes and rivers become filled with leachate and other toxic substances, and the smell becomes unbearable for miles and miles. I want to build a future here and maybe one day have kids. I want them to grow up in Benton or Linn County. I do not want to move just because it is no longer safe to live in the places that I once called home. I want a future for myself, my fellow community members, and all future generations to come. We can do better; we need to do better. Please leave a legacy you can be proud of.

For this, I urge you to deny the application LU-24-027.

Sincerely,

Rachel Biscoe

Long-term Benton County Resident and Current Linn County Resident

**Everything written above is my own personal experiences and knowledge, and in no way does it reflect upon any positions that I hold or the opinions of the organizations I am a part of*.*