

From: [Bart Spiller](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Landfill testimony
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Benton County Board of Commissioners
LU-24-027 Condition Use Permit

Greetings County Commissioners,

I am Bart Spiller and I live roughly 5 miles from Coffin Butte. In the 25 years that my family has lived here we have seen the rapid growth of the landfill and the problems it has created for our valley as well as the greater area. I am opposed to the expansion of the landfill and the extension of the impacts that it has on our quality of life

We have experienced increased noise, odor and traffic to and from the landfill. What is in the odor, it turns out there is odorless methane and most likely PFAS. We know this because Republic has been in violation of unmonitored release of methane. When it comes to PFAS we know it is in the Leachate, but there are also studies of landfills in wetter areas such as ours that PFAS are being emitted in the air in almost equal parts as from the leachate. How long have we been exposed to this toxic mixture and do we want to perpetuate the problem. The answer is NO. There is expanding research on the environmental impact of PFAS and ways to treat it. I don't believe that there is any testimony by Republic mentioning PFAS or alternate ways of reducing it's impact. A simple search of landfills and PFAS informs the reader of the hazards of landfills releasing PFAS.

Fortunately through the process of this Conditional Use Permit we have many hours of oral and written testimony submitted by the citizens that you the Board of Commissioners represent. The dedicated volunteer Benton County Planning Commission members sifted through all of the testimony presented by both sides and came up with a unanimous decision to reject the expansion. Having heard the commissioners thoughtful examining of the arguments, I hope that you the Benton County commissioners will consider their deliberations in your own decision making process.

We are at a crucial time in the evolving landscape of waste management. The question is are we going to continue with outdated models that have been detrimental to the health of our community and the environment that we all live in. By expanding the landfill we are continuing down that same path. Is Republic Services more concerned about the health impacts to us or the continued desire to make money at the expense of our health. Republic is now proposing to send all of the leachate to Salem and kicking it downstream and making it someone else's problem. Have we once heard Republic offer a more environmentally friendly solution to the leachate problem. The answer is no. Republic could be a leader in a new way forward and propose solutions that would better benefit us. There is a solution and Waste Management has proposed shipping our waste by Rail to there landfill in eastern Oregon. Republic would lose some money, but we the citizens of Benton county would benefit. Let's not let Republic control the narrative of our future with the fear of rate increases or the argument that somehow it is the lack enforcement by our government that are at fault for Republic's not following basic environmental rules.

Dear commissioners and staff please do your research. The impact of Coffin Butte landfill goes well beyond the surrounding area of the landfill, that includes the air shed and waters of the Willamette basin. Read the the testimony by the concerned public. The beauty of our community is there are smart well informed citizens that present a constructive argument against expansion. Please deny the expansion with no Conditions. It is time to be creative and imagine a new direction for waste management.

Thank you for your consideration, Bart Spiller

