

From: [Diane Crocker](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: WEB FORM SUBMISSION - LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Testimony
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Subject of Testimony: Coffin Butte Support

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Written Testimony:

Public Testimony in Support of the Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion
Submitted by Councilor Diane Crocker, City of Philomath
October 20, 2025

Chair and Commissioners,

I write to you in support of the modest expansion at Coffin Butte landfill because, simply put, I know too much about the dangerous and devastating impacts when Oregonians do not have a safe affordable place to put their waste.

As a grandmother to 11, I am proudly helping raise the 6th generation of Oregonians in my family. My great grandmother came to Oregon over 100 years ago to homestead. I graduated from Oregon State University in 1981, and applied to be a teacher in the Philomath School District the very next day – I got the job, and went on to teach middle school band for 40 years.

When my parents were able to buy their own ranch in Polk County, I remember finding a dump spot from previous owners. I have seen how waste is handled in burn barrels and by digging a trench to bury the garbage. It is heartbreaking when people who can't afford the costs of disposal, take waste management into their own hands.

We all make garbage — you can burn it, that's not good; you can bury it, that's even worse, or you can use your common sense and be grateful for the service that Coffin Butte Landfill provides us in Benton County. I strongly support the expansion at Coffin Butte because it provides a safe and affordable resource for all of us that brings much-needed revenue to the county.

When I learned about the Planning Commission's decision to ignore the recommendations of Benton County's professional staff and deny Republic Services the expansion, I thought back to those burn barrels on the ranch, and the unsafe consequences of trying to manage your own waste without an affordable alternative. I'm grateful for the Coffin Butte landfill and the service it provides our communities.

With rising utility rates across the board and persistent inflation, the last thing our communities need is higher prices for disposal.

It's pretty simple. When the cost of disposal becomes unaffordable, people take waste management into their own hands – and it's not good.

As a band teacher at Philomath Middle school for 40 years, I learned how to cut through the noise, no matter how loud and unruly it got, because I had a job to do.

I urge you to cut through the noise and approve the landfill expansion for the sake of our communities, because you too have an important job to do.

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