

From: [Joel Geier](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027: Deceptive practice by proponent to solicit support from Yamhill official
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025 10:43:43 AM

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Dear Commissioners Wyse, Malone, and Shepherd:

As a north Benton County resident, until recently I was in the same legislative district as counties north of us. I'm still in touch with many Yamhill County residents from past campaign efforts. I'm also familiar with the character of their county commissioners. Knowing this, I was surprised to see a letter of support from Yamhill County Commissioner Bubba King. This seemed out of step with what I know about him, as an environmentally conscious, regenerative farmer.

On Oct. 16th I reached out to Commissioner King to ask about his reasons, and he promptly gave me a call back. He said that his #1 concern was the limited capacity available at Coffin Butte, which he believed did not give enough time to develop better options. It turns out that this was based on disinformation by the applicant, when he was invited to tour the landfill by persons connected with their PR campaign.

Commissioner King said that landfill representatives told him that the current landfill only has about TWO years of capacity. He confirmed that this was even taking into account the space in the quarry (Cell 6).

When I informed him that Republic's own projections are that Cell 6 still has 12 to 14 years of capacity, he was troubled, because this was clearly way out of line with what he'd been told.

Commissioner King asked me if there was any unbiased report available. I sent him a copy of the Benton County Talks Trash Report, pointing him to the findings of the subcommittee on landfill life/capacity which gives Republic's own estimates.

While his letter refers to other talking points from Republic's PR campaign, he stated that those issues were less important than the idea that the landfill might run out of space within two years, leaving no time for other options. He said he was not aware of the Millersburg intermodal/rail option, nor most other recommendations from the regional SMMP process.

He was clearly not happy at the idea that he received false information during his landfill visit. With tomorrow's tight deadline for written testimony, I don't know if he'll have time to assess the objective facts in the BCTT report, and send a retraction or revision of his statement. The life of a county commissioner is busy, as you know.

Noticing that several other public officials from outside Benton County have sent in very similar statements, you might well ask, "How many of them were told the same

false information?"

At least two of you have previously experienced this type of deception, for example, last year when Republic's annual report contained so many misrepresentations and omissions that you rejected it. In that case you required them to submit a new, corrected version. In this case, you have the option simply to reject this appeal, and send an even more clear message.

Yours sincerely,
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