

From: [The Roosevelt Society](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Written Testimonies missing on published site
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:29:41 AM
Attachments: [Written Testimony of Marie Bowers.docx.pdf](#)
[Written Testimony of Tino Barreras.docx.pdf](#)
[Written Testimony of Rob Thompson.docx.pdf](#)

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Hello!

Please accept the attached testimonies that were individually submitted, but are missing on the website. There may have been an error message on the online form that prevented them from being delivered over the last month.

Thank you so much!

Written Testimony of Marie Bowers

Local Farmer

Benton County Commission Hearings – Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion

October 22–23, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Marie Bowers, and I am a farmer in the Willamette Valley. I am writing to share my support for the **Coffin Butte Landfill expansion** and to urge you to approve this important project.

As a farmer, I have learned that you must take care of your land today while planning for tomorrow—the seasons and the years still to come. Waste management should be approached with that same mindset of **responsibility and stewardship**.

On the farm, we don't get to ignore problems. When something breaks, when a resource is limited, or when a challenge arises, we fix it. Waste is no different. Every day, families, businesses, and entire communities create it, and Coffin Butte is where much of it goes. Without this expansion, trash would need to be hauled much farther away. That would mean higher costs for everyone, more trucks on the road, and unnecessary strain on already limited regional infrastructure.

For farmers, **planning ahead** and being **accountable for our resources** is second nature. That's why keeping a local landfill matters so much. It gives us the ability to manage and oversee this responsibility right here at home, rather than shipping it hundreds of miles away and leaving oversight in the hands of others. Expanding Coffin Butte is not about putting off solutions, but about making sure we have the time and stability to **develop future alternatives responsibly**, without rushing families and businesses into more expensive, less sustainable options.

This expansion is also not a new concept, it is the **final phase of a landfill approved in 1997**, now requiring your approval because the development area crosses Coffin Butte Road. It is a practical and forward-looking step that extends the life of this regional resource while we plan for what comes next.

I urge you to support the expansion of Coffin Butte. Doing so reflects the same values of **responsibility, foresight, and stewardship** that guide those of us who work the land every day. It is the right choice for families, for businesses, and for the communities across western Oregon who depend on Coffin Butte for reliable and cost-effective waste management.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our region.

Sincerely,

Marie Bowers

Local Farmer

Written Testimony of Rob Thompson

Thompson Sanitary Service

Benton County Commission Hearings – Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion

October 22–23, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Rob Thompson, and I am the owner of **Thompson Sanitary Service**, a company that has served the waste and recycling needs of the Lincoln County community for generations. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the **Coffin Butte Landfill expansion**.

For companies like mine, **reliable and cost-effective waste disposal is an essential public service**. Our customers—from households to small businesses—depend on us to provide affordable, safe, and environmentally responsible service. The ability to do that rests on the availability of regional infrastructure, and Coffin Butte is the most critical piece of that system for western Oregon.

The landfill is not just a private operation—it functions as a **regional public resource**. It provides stability, predictability, and fairness in how waste is managed across multiple counties. Without it, local haulers like us would face higher costs and fewer options, and those burdens would fall directly on the people we serve. The expansion ensures we can **maintain stable rates**, protect local jobs, and continue building toward long-term alternatives when the landfill eventually reaches capacity.

It is also important to note that this is not a brand-new project, but the **final phase of a plan approved in 1997**, brought to you now only because the site crosses Coffin Butte Road. Extending the life of Coffin Butte is a **responsible, necessary step** that keeps our communities from facing sudden and unaffordable disruptions in service.

On behalf of Thompson Sanitary Service, our employees, and the thousands of customers we serve, I respectfully urge you to approve this expansion. It will allow our region to continue providing this essential public service in a **cost-effective, environmentally responsible, and economically stable way**.

Thank you for your time and for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Rob Thompson
Thompson Sanitary Service

Written Testimony of Tino Barreras

Chief Programs Officer, YMCA Albany

Benton County Commission Hearings – Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion

October 22–23, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

My name is **Tino Barreras**, and I serve as the Chief Programs Officer for the **YMCA of Albany**. I am here to share my strong support for the **Coffin Butte Landfill expansion**, because the decision before you is not just about waste disposal—it is about the financial stability and well-being of the families and communities we serve.

When costs go up — everything from the cost of equipment, fuel, vehicle registration, or disposal — our experience for members is compromised. When we see a significant increase in cost in any part of our budget, we have to either charge more for services, cut back on supplies, or cut back on staffing. At the YMCA, we provide opportunities and programs for community members of every age and every income level. If our trash has to travel 200 miles for disposal, there's no way we won't see an increase in costs. Those increases ripple outward, impacting not only our members but also families across the region who already struggle to balance their household budgets.

Coffin Butte functions as a **regional public resource**. It gives our communities west of the Cascades a local, cost-effective solution for waste disposal. Without this modest expansion, the alternatives would drive up costs, put more trucks on the road, and push financial pressures onto families, nonprofits, and small businesses. For working families, those added expenses mean tough choices: fewer extracurricular opportunities for their kids, less access to healthy activities, and reduced community support.

It's important to recognize that this expansion is not a brand-new landfill—it is the **final phase of a project approved in 1997**, requiring your approval now only because it extends across Coffin Butte Road. Expanding the landfill is a practical, forward-looking step that maintains local oversight, ensures stability, and buys us time to plan responsibly for future alternatives.

Please support the modest expansion at Coffin Butte Landfill that Benton County's professional planning staff recommended approving. On behalf of the YMCA Albany, our staff, and the families we serve every day, I urge you to make the responsible choice for our communities and approve this expansion.

Thank you for your time and your leadership.

Sincerely,

Tino Barreras

Chief Programs Officer

YMCA Albany
