

From: [TODD VICKI ROWLAND](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Uphold Benton County Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027
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I am writing to **OPPOSE THE COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL APPLICATION LU-24-027**. I have lived in the Soap Creek Valley for 36 years. Watching the landfill grow explosively from the 2008 acquisition by the landfill giant, Republic Services, has been difficult and as time has revealed, very concerning. The impact on air and water quality (methane leaks, leachate contamination), impact on wildlife, farming operations and the environment from explosive growth, trash contamination of surrounding areas, and threat to drinking water all fall short of the County's goals outlined in the **2040 Thriving Community Initiatives**.

I fail to see how a landfill expansion at a poorly sited location near farms, residences, wildlife areas and growing towns (City of Adair) "*promotes creativity, forward-thinking, a sense of place and high quality of life*" or offers "*high environmental quality, conservation of natural resources, consideration of carrying capacity and easy access to the outdoors*". It is not a "*diverse, robust economy inspiring and stimulating local business entrepreneurship, innovation & opportunities*". Instead, it is a monolithic mountain of hazardous and toxic waste, owned by an out-of-state conglomerate. I do not believe that our community currently has the "*resilience to..respond and recover from natural & human caused disaster, threats and changes*" as evidenced by concerns from the volunteer fire department called to fight fires in an area so volatile, they wear breathing apparatus to deal with it. Community members find it difficult to feel appreciation of "*the inherent value of each community member*" or that the County honors "*differences, celebrates diversity & fosters inclusion*" when the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (outlined in the BCC Chapter 23 of the Benton County Solid Waste Management Ordinance) has been disbanded since 2023. And finally, how does the proposed expansion and lifting of the tonnage cap "*address the well-being of our people by including HEALTH considerations in all policies, practices, activities and operations*"?

The current landfill has the capacity to accept trash for the next 14 years (with the current tonnage cap in place), which would allow the County adequate time to explore other solutions to this operation. Unchecked growth now only assures a bigger problem later. The County appears to have no other enforcement ability other than the tonnage cap, which Republic Services supposedly "self-reports". Why allow the unhindered expansion of such an environmental burden? At some future point, we can assuredly expect to have to deal with a hazardous waste cleanup and the small amount of revenue received by the County and money set aside by Republic Services for that possibility will certainly fall far short of the anticipated actual cost.

Please uphold the Benton County Planning Commission Denial of LU-24-027.

Todd Rowland
27673 Writsman Creek Drive
Corvallis, OR 97330