

LU-24-027 IN-PERSON TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL COVER SHEET

Received From: Greg Warburton

Date: 10/29/2025

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: 4408 NW Honeysuckle Drive

City, State, Zip: Corvallis, OR 97330

FOR BOC OFFICE STAFF USE ONLY

BOC ID: Boc3

IDENTIFIER: TO 709

This letter is in response to issues on the record of the Benton County Board of Commissioners' hearings on October 22 and 23, 2025.

October 28, 2025

ATTN: BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RE: PROPOSAL TO EXPLAND THE COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL (LU-24-027)

Dear Commissioners:

I urge the Benton County Commissioners to **take a courageous and unanimous stand by denying** Republic Services appeal to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

I remain extremely concerned that Republic Services is again endeavoring to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. On October 22, 2025 in the Gazette Times *As I See it* column entitled **"We have 15 years to find alternative to Expansion"** the author Joel Geier states: *After years of fact-finding, Benton County residents now understand that Coffin Butte Landfill is a methane-belching environmental liability that transfers toxins from leachate ("garbage tea") into our Willamette River...There are many alternative solutions. But you are not going to hear about them from Republic Services, or from their phony "grassroots" influence campaign, which has been trying to stir up fear.*

I would add that Republic Services' blind, broad-brush assertions that only a very small percentage of our county's population are concerned about the ongoing harm being thrust upon us all in Benton County is an additional reason to deny their appeal. These actions taken by Republic Services are pathetic and outrageous....have they no shame?

Let's remember the recent history. In a December 2021 headline: ***Benton County Planning Commission unanimously denied LU-21-047, the application by Republic Services to expand Coffin Butte Landfill.*** Their finding was that expansion would cause significant harm to Benton County. And, as you Commissioners clearly know, the Planning Commission **unanimously denied the expansion again in 2025.**

In the Gazette Times, October 25, 2025, Cody Mann highlights some of the top issues, in bullet-point fashion, that many opponents raised during the recent public testimony. Most importantly, this list represents the **critical areas of concern that have been scientifically exposed as ongoing unmitigated and unsafe conditions of the current landfill operations.**

- Groundwater and water quality concerns
- Noise and toxic leachate releases into the Willamette River
- Financial burden and increased costs for waste disposal
- Long-term sustainability and waste management alternatives
- Methane and carcinogenic gas emissions
- Lack of enforcement and compliance monitoring

Let's remember how, in the *As I See It* article on August 30, 2025 entitled: **Why Republic Services is Desperate to Expand the Landfill** Marge Popp cuts to the chase in stating: *Republic Services is desperate. Across the U.S. waste transport by rail is booming, thanks to its efficiency and advantages of siting landfills in dry climates with stable geology and sparse populations...The lax oversight keeps Republic profitable — shifting environmental and health costs onto our community.*

I continue to wonder why the Benton County Commissioners agreed to review the appeal of the Benton County Planning Commission after the committee's UNANIMOUS decision.

Now, as the time for a final decision is upon us all, **I am exceedingly concerned!** It is clear to me that:

- somehow the unsubstantiated claims about responsible stewardship made by Republic Services have allowed them to *gain some traction* causing some people to actively support the expansion,
- even long-standing, life-threatening business operations may be allowed to continue because maintaining the status quo is comfortable and easy,
- the Board of Commissioners could still choose to *shuffle downhill* to ecological and moral decline as they continue to face *pushback* from Republic Services to vote yes.

We all know the Commission's primary responsibility is to maintain and protect the mental, emotional and physical health and safety of Benton County citizens and **make this Landfill a finite operation**; thus, protecting our beautiful environment in perpetuity.

I have come to learn that Ken Eklund's declaration is *spot on*. In his *As I See It* news article on April 17, 2025 he states: *...Republic Service's evasion of EPA's active legal action...should be **GAME OVER**. But we may have underestimated Republic's commitment to this expansion, or its ability to steamroll reality.*

In summary, I fully support Ken Eklund and many others' clear-thinking narratives given on October 23, 2025. The Board of Commissioners **MUST AND WILL** see the critical need to deny the expansion.

When the Commissioners **unanimously deny Republic Services expansion request** they provide the opportunity to move forward with planning for environmentally and fiscally responsible alternatives. It is clear **the residents of Benton County are no longer willing to be exposed** to the ongoing dangers and unsafe business practices continuing to take place at the Coffin Butte landfill.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Warburton, MS 4408 NW Honeysuckle Dr. Corvallis, OR 97330 (since 1982)

