

From: [Christina Marie Clark](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Written Testimony - LU-24-027 (Landfill Expansion Application)
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025 6:37:09 PM

Full Name:

Christina Marie Clark

Email:

hind_0_subnet@icloud.com

Street Address, City and Zip code:

6901 NW Appaloosa Lane, Corvallis, OR 97330

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To the Benton County Planning Commission,

I am a longtime resident of Corvallis, deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. I urge you to deny the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application, as this expansion threatens the health and well-being of our community, particularly our children and grandchildren, and the natural beauty we cherish.

My family has lived here for 24 years, nurturing our family with vegetable gardens and fruit trees, supporting local wildlife by building habitat with native plant species, and growing a variety of plants to support 3 local charitable garden groups with thousands of plants for their fundraisers. I want my grandchildren to grow up healthy, enjoying this beautiful community—breathing clean air, drinking safe water, and playing outdoors without fear. The landfill’s current operations already jeopardize this vision, and expansion will only make it worse.

The landfill accepts one-third of Western Oregon’s garbage, with less than 7% coming from Benton County. We’re a dumping ground for other regions, bearing the burden of their waste—326,000 tons from Marion County alone in 2021—while facing methane leaks, PFAS in leachate, and unbearable odors. The 2022 EPA inspection found methane levels 20 times above federal limits, posing health risks like respiratory issues and contributing to climate change. I’m alarmed by how pollution from this landfill could impact our family’s well-being and that of all other community members, human and otherwise.

Expansion means more trucks, more noise, and more pollution, threatening our air, water, and the Luckiamute River headwaters. Our community, the McDonald-Dunn Forest and the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area are at particular risk—leachate and litter don’t respect boundaries. I fear my grandchildren will inherit a Corvallis scarred by a mountain of garbage, unable to enjoy the outdoors as I do.

Benton County must prioritize sustainability, not expansion. The Benton County Talks Trash workgroup recommended reducing regional trash inflow, yet this proposal ignores that call.

The waste needs to go somewhere less damaging—where communities aren’t forced to sacrifice their health and environment for others’ refuse.

Please deny the CUP and protect Corvallis for future generations. My grandchildren deserve a healthy, vibrant home—not a legacy of pollution.

Sincerely,

Christina Clark

Corvallis, Oregon

Time: March 20, 2025 at 6:37 pm

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