

From: [Kathleen Newman](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Written Testimony - LU-24-027 (Landfill Expansion Application)
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025 5:22:46 PM

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I hike in Dunn Forest and EO Wilson wildlife area. I see the privately owned for profit landfill sitting on Coffin Butte as though it were an old factory, built before modern technology and concern for water and air pollution standards became standard. It continually sends toxic emissions into our community, and attempts to reduce or control them have been ineffectual. If it were an ugly old above ground factory left over from the Camp Adair days with visible emissions, we would be appalled by having this out of compliance facility operating. However, because we confuse garbage collection, landfill operation, and general community helper services, Benton County tends to view the landfill as some necessary evil, unaware that only 7% of the garbage is ours. The significant funds that the county receives from the operation are a large portion of their discretionary budget, making the commissioners reluctant to rein in the documented pollution violations. The last thing we need to do is allow this facility to expand! Yes, we need to be responsible for regional waste disposal in an environmentally safe manner, but importing large loads of trash for profit at the expense of air and groundwater is indefensible.

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