

**From:** [Carol Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony - LU-24-027 (Landfill Expansion Application)  
**Date:** Friday, March 21, 2025 8:10:50 PM

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I've loved living with my family and recreating in Benton County since 1997. I believe that the values statements put forth in the Benton County Comprehensive Plan match my values. It seems I'm not along...a citizen participation process was used to describe the values that we were led to believe would be used for county planning. Unfortunately, those values have been violated by our county leaders in their agreements that have led to an increase in the landfill operated by Republic Services. There will be further degradation of our environment if the current expansion request is granted.

Goal 5 of the comprehensive plan speaks to natural resource and open spaces. It acknowledges that natural resources of the county are central to the long-term sustainability and livability of the county. By taking in trash from places other than Benton County and agreeing to further expansion of the landfill, the commissioners are willingly selling off our natural resources, including clean water and vibrant wildlife.

We enjoy biking in the county, especially on Sulfur Springs, Tampico, and various connector roads to Independence Highway. I also enjoy gardening in my yard, hiking in the county north of Corvallis, playing disc golf at Adair Park and visiting EE Wilson. All these activities are negatively impacted by the landfill operated by Republic Services and allowed by the Benton County commissioners. The landfill is unsightly now and will be even worse if farm and forestlands are turned into more trash piles.

Biking has become dangerous because of the increased number of large Republic Services trucks on the road thus I have stopped that to avoid untimely death. EE Wilson and hiking trails are negatively impacted by odors emitted by the landfill. Even gardening in my yard is often unpleasant due to the smells that travel to us. Wildlife, native species and water ways will be negatively impacted if more trash is brought into Benton County. Please follow our values and stop!

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