

**From:** [Pamela Castle](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
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**Subject:** Testimony LU-24-027  
**Date:** Sunday, March 23, 2025 4:33:27 PM

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Dear County Planning Commission members,

This testimony is regarding LU-24-027, the application to expand Coffin Butte Landfill. I strongly oppose this expansion. When we moved here in 2018, I had no idea that on a routine basis, we'd be greeted with landfill odor at our home- especially given that we live in the city of Corvallis many miles from the landfill.

I'd gone to OSU as an undergrad back in the late 1980s and we chose Corvallis when we returned to the pacific northwest because it is a small city in what appears to be a bucolic, yet progressive, setting. It presents itself as a forward-thinking community that emphasizes protecting the environment and enhancing the wellness of its residents. The landfill odor fits neither the community image nor its stated objectives and policies from the values defined in Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative's Core Values (in particular, the high-quality environment goal) to many policies and goals in the Benton County Comprehensive Plan – in fact, just about all of the landfill's practices and community effects are antithetical to what this community purports to represent. Why spend time, money and energy defining goals and making policy to achieve those goals when it appears the county has no real desire to pursue them?

On days when I smell the landfill odor, I refrain from engaging in my planned outdoor activities and keep my windows closed. I do this not only because it is unpleasant, but also because it has been well-documented that landfill gas contains many contaminants and I do not want to inhale them. Having the ability to use my own property be affected by a landfill was not what I expected when I moved here. If I'd known about all of the problems associated with the landfill, I would not have purchased a home in Corvallis. It has left me deeply saddened and feeling that the leadership in Benton County has let all of its residents down by not providing the leadership that holds operators like Republic Services accountable for their negative community impacts. Republic Services has not met conditional use requirements in the past (Benton County Talks Trash key summary), there is no reason to expect they would operate an expansion in any different way.

Landfill odor affects both my use of my property and the character of the area and thus the current use does not meet the criteria defined in **Benton County Code 53.215 (1)**. This will only worsen with an expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill and this impact on air

quality must be considered under **Benton County Comprehensive Plan policy 6.1.4.** Please use your power of discretion to protect this community and deny the permit for expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill as it would exacerbate existing landfill issues.

Sincerely,

Pam Castle  
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