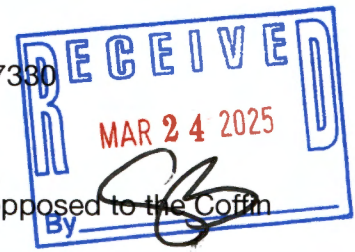


Testimony from Laura Hansen, 6780 NW Mountain View Dr., Corvallis 97330

Re: Application file # LU-24-027

I have lived in north Corvallis for much of the past 40 years. I am very opposed to the Coffin Butte landfill expansion. My main concerns are environmental.



I have tried to index my concerns to the sections of the Benton County Code which apply.

BENTON COUNTY CODE 60.005 covering forestry conservation zones: RESOURCES IMPORTANT TO BENTON COUNTY AND PROTECTED BY THIS CHAPTER INCLUDE... MAINTENANCE OF CLEAN AIR AND WATER.

EPA has gathered evidence that the air is being polluted with methane. It is easy to see the dust cloud when debris is dumped at the site on dry days. Photo evidence shows that Republic Services does not adequately cover the landfill to mitigate air pollution. We don't know the extent of air pollution, but I live only a few miles away, and it is playing with fire to just assume that the air pollution is not going to increase and spread with expansion. The odor of the landfill, way beyond its borders, tells us that air pollution is covering a wide area.

BENTON COUNTY CODE 53.215 (2) SERIOUS BURDEN ON PROVISION OF A PUBLIC SERVICE: Clean water is an important public service. There are many residences using wells close to the landfill property. At the landfill the groundwater level is very shallow, right at the base of the fill area. There has been evidence of too much arsenic in soil close to but already outside the current Republic Services property. While we have no exact measure of groundwater pollution outside the landfill property, we can't ignore the threat to our wells and agricultural lands. Once our wells are contaminated, it will be too late for us and for other residents.

More broadly, clean water is an essential public service for communities that use the Willamette River as a water source. Many trucks full of leachate are trucked away from the landfill every day. The leachate goes to two water treatment plants that are not equipped to take out metals and toxic chemicals. Therefore the Willamette River, a water source for many valley residents including Adair Village, is being polluted with dangerous substances. An acquaintance of mine who is a biologist with years of studying the Willamette admitted that, because of pollution, he would not eat fish caught there. An expansion would create more leachate and make it even harder to provide safe water to the public. This also violates BCC 53.215 (2).

BENTON COUNTY CODE 53.215 (1) SERIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE AREA. It makes me sick at heart to think of Coffin Butte expanding, stinking, and polluting a large valley area. Our quality of life is threatened. Having lived here for a long time I am shocked at the change in the size of the landfill. It dominates the view of the valley from miles away. Truck traffic on Highway 99W has increased dramatically. Sometimes trucks are spilling litter onto the highway. There are long lines at the dump. Do we really want north Benton County to be known as that place where the public allowed the landfill to grow into a giant hill collecting garbage from around the state? A place that is noxious to be around and a danger to public health? This is not who we are! We care about where we live!

My understanding is that the contract with Republic Services lasts until 2040. This means that Benton County's current revenues from Republic Services are not threatened if the expansion is denied. Because of Republic Service's failure to adequately measure or address air quality violations, and because of the ongoing problem of safeguarding the Willamette River as a water source, it is obvious that remedial measures must be taken and enforced. A "yes" to

expansion at this time feels like a tradeoff of public safety for the lure of future revenues. Republic Services has no incentive to spend extra money to operate more safely if the county so willingly gives it permission to operate as usual. For the love of Benton County, please deny this proposal.

*Laura Hansen*