

From: [Hank Schroeder](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Written Testimony - LU-24-027 (Landfill Expansion Application)
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 5:05:53 PM

Full Name:

Hank Schroeder

Email:

hank.schroeder@gmail.com

Street Address, City and Zip code:

1810 NW Juniper Place, Corvallis, OR 97330

Submit your written testimony here :

REJECT THE LANDFILL EXPANSION LU-24-027 for many reasons, including the following:

(Criterion 1) Landfill expansion will increase its negative effect on the uses and character of adjacent properties. Valley Landfills has demonstrated that it cannot limit the release of toxic and damaging substances into our environment. Excessive METHANE emissions cause serious global warming damage to our broad region. Obnoxious ODORS released from the landfill reach surrounding properties miles from the landfill. LEACHATE contains high levels of toxic substances, including PFAs that are not removed at the waste treatment facility and end up in the Willamette River, affecting many residents and communities downriver. Valley Landfills says they have no enforcement notices for any of their permits, but reported occurrences of excessive levels of dangerous substances tell a different story—even if monitoring agencies choose not to take punitive action. We local individuals must act to preserve neighboring residential, farm, and forest uses and safeguard our local and regional environment—Valley Landfills has a poor record of doing so.

> If the landfill expansion is approved, the negative effects from these harmful water- and air-borne substances will become even more of a problem.

(Criterion 2) Landfill expansion will impose severe burdens on future improvements, facilities, and services provided by Benton County by increasing its FINANCIAL LIABILITY for eventual landfill closure and cleanup. Yearly revenue received by the county from Valley Landfills is being spent on county operations, and money being set aside for landfill closure and cleanup is woefully small compared to actual closure and cleanup expenses of other landfills.

> The county will eventually inherit an even larger and more limiting financial burden if the expansion is approved, negatively affecting Benton County residents and further limiting future options.

(Criterion 3) Landfill expansion is not a sustainable strategy. Long-term planning for Benton County should include maximizing the availability of the Coffin Butte landfill operation for the county and immediate neighboring counties over coming years. The amount of refuse generated within our region is fairly stable. By REMOVING LIMITS for the amount of refuse accepted yearly, we allow Republic Services to fill the landfill faster with refuse from distant regions—and thereby shorten the useful life of the landfill and adversely affect long-term landfill services for the Benton County region. Alternatively, retaining or reducing yearly

limits would improve the service life for our local region. Benton County should not be sacrificing its health and needs for the benefit of Republic Services and distant regions. We shouldn't let Coffin Butte grow unchecked and become the state's garbage pit.
> By NOT approving the landfill expansion, yearly limits can remain, which will provide more time to create a sustainable materials management system for local waste.

You probably already know about these issues. Now is the time to act for the benefit of the residents and environment of Benton County and the surrounding region. **REJECT THE LANDFILL EXPANSION.**

Time: March 27, 2025 at 5:05 pm
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