

From: [Eileen Tokuda](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 testimony
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 6:46:09 PM

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To Benton County Planning Commission Chair, Nick Fowler,

This letter is about LU-24-027, the application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

As a full time resident of Corvallis, Benton County, and an ardent recreational bicyclist I strongly oppose expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.

The traffic on Hwy 99 leading to the Coffin Butte Landfill has become untenable. Expansion of the landfill will encourage additional trash truck traffic on a road that is a major route taken by bicyclists heading north from town. This seriously interferes with the quality and character of the region. (Criteria 1) Currently there is a recorded 256,000 trash vehicle trips per year. This translates to 4923 trips per week, or 820 trips per day (with a 6 day workweek at Coffin Butte). No wonder we cyclists detest the riding experience along Hwy 99!

This current, and proposed, amount of trash truck traffic places undue burden on public services that struggles to maintain road conditions that assist with bicyclist safety.

(Criteria 2)

The expansion would transform use of Coffin Butte Road which is a popular route for cyclists to use as an access route to numerous gravel and paved routes in the Soap Creek basin. The quality and character of the region would be significantly and irreparably impacted. (Criteria 1)

Sincerely,
Eileen Tokuda
Member Mid Valley Bicycle Club
Corvallis resident of 33 years

From: [Eileen Tokuda](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 6:47:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Benton County Planning Commission Chair, Nick Fowler,

This letter is about LU-24-027, the application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

As a full time resident of Corvallis, Benton County, **I strongly oppose expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.**

Landfill expansion would increase toxic pollution into the Willamette River further fouling municipal sources of drinking water and creating serious and negative interference with quality of life for us locals. *(Criteria 2)* Million gallons of leachate are pumped out of Coffin Butte and sent to wastewater treatment plants in Corvallis and Salem, where the leachate is passed through treatment plants not equipped to capture the hazardous contents. It is then dumped into the Willamette River, our drinking water source. These hazardous pollutants include mercury, lead, industrial solvents, and “forever chemicals” (PFAs)!

Some of the largest methane plumes in the Pacific Northwest emanate from Coffin Butte.

In 2022 and again in 2024, studies done by the EPA found explosive levels of methane leaking from Coffin Butte, after Valley Landfill had reported only negligible leakage. **A landfill expansion will only exacerbate this problem at Coffin Butte.** This would seriously interfere with the health and well-being of adjacent residents and public lands within a four-mile radius, where widespread drift of noxious chemicals is regularly detected by residents and recreationists. *(Criteria 1)*

Coffin Butte already receives one-third of all of Oregon’s garbage!

Benton County needs a far more serious Sustainable Materials Management Plan that provides a roadmap toward eventually closing, not expanding, Coffin Butte. The current status-quo approach to waste management violates the shift toward Sustainable Materials Management criteria endorsed by Benton County and the state of Oregon.

(Criteria 3) **I believe Benton County should be realistically planning the inevitable closure of the landfill.**

An expansion of the landfill imposes the burden of increased risk and liability on Benton County, compromising the county’s capacity for future public improvements, facilities, utilities, or services available to the area and to the residents of Benton County. *(Criteria 1)* In addition it will seriously interfere with current and future uses on adjacent property within the watershed, air-shed, and view-shed. *(Criteria 1)* It will seriously interfere with the character and identity of the area, making Benton County a dump site rather than a destination. *(Criteria 1)* It will violate the spirit and the mandate to shift from Solid Waste Management to Materials Management, a stated goal of Benton County and the State of Oregon. *(Criteria 3)*

Please vote NO on expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.

Sincerely,
Eileen Tokuda
Corvallis resident for 33 years