

**From:** [Joyce Loper](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on LU-24-027, the application to expand the landfill  
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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. My name is Joyce Loper and I live at 3524 NW Tanager Dr. in Corvallis, Oregon. I have been a resident of Benton County since 1987, and have seen the tremendous growth of the landfill over those years. There is no question that the landfill has a huge impact on the character of the area (BCC 53.215), certainly as an eyesore for anyone driving by it on Highway 99, by wear and tear on our roads from the large amount of truck traffic, the litter on the highway and county roads nearby, and the noise of trucks in and enroute to/from the landfill. In this way, the proposed landfill expansion poses a burden on public improvements and facilities (roads) (BCC 53.215).

I have always taken great joy from the beauty and pristine quality of the natural areas of Benton County. In past years, I enjoyed visiting and walking in the EE Wilson Wildlife area, but I go there infrequently now due to the noise of landfill traffic, the smell and the view of the landfill. Expansion of the landfill will further interfere with the environmental health of E E Wilson, the wildlife inhabiting it, and the experience of those of us who love this place. Most alarmingly, the expansion will remove an existing limit on the volume of waste that can be accepted at the landfill. With a larger landfill area and waste volume, the quality of other natural areas nearby, such as MacDonald forest where I walk several times a week, will also be diminished. These natural areas are unique treasures of our community, serving as wildlife habitat and enhancing the quality of life for all county citizens. Expansion of the landfill will certainly interfere with these precious ecosystems and the human experience in them. The landfill smells and exposure to airborne toxins will most certainly increase in these natural areas with the expansion. These examples provide another example of how the expanded landfill will interfere with the character of the area (BCC 53.215).

Already, Corvallis citizens are smelling the landfill in town, exposing ourselves and our environment to a mixture of toxic chemicals. Increasing the volume of waste and the area of the landfill will make this more common and more severe, again interfering with the character of the area (BCC 53.215).

My husband and I like to kayak on the Willamette River, another beautiful and precious feature of our area. I am alarmed by the release of leachates from the landfill into the river. I recognize that the leachates are treated, but the treatment plant designed for treatment of municipal waste does not remove all toxins present in landfill leachates. These chemicals will have a long term effect on the quality of water, riverbed, and river

ecosystem, as well as downstream areas that will affect our area for decades, perhaps generations. In addition to these recovered leachates, which go through the municipal treatment plant, other leachates move directly into soil from the landfill and pose a risk to the quality of the aquifer. Increasing the volume of leachates, an obvious result of the landfill expansion, definitely interferes with the character of the area through the potentially serious pollution of ground and service water with toxic chemicals (BCC 53.215).

I vehemently oppose the landfill expansion. The landfill cannot expand without seriously diminishing the character and health of the area. Approving the expansion is counter to the core value stated in Benton County's Thriving Communities Initiative "Recognize & Will Address the Well-Being of our People by Including Health Considerations in all Policies, Practices, Activities, & Operations." Expanding the landfill and the volume of waste coming to Benton County will cause irreparable harm to our environment, health, and quality of life.

Sincerely, Joyce Loper