

From: [LWV Corvallis](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion Application Comments
Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 8:44:06 AM
Attachments: [2025-04 Testimony Coffin Butte Benton County Planning Commission.docx.pdf](#)

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.

Please accept our attached comments regarding the Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion Application and include them in the packet for the April 29th Planning Commission meeting.

Elisabeth Anderson, President
League of Women Voters, President

Date: April 2, 2025

To: Benton County Planning Commission

From: Elisabeth Anderson, President, League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Re: Republic Services' Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Coffin Butte Landfill

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis urges Benton County to deny Republic Services' Conditional Use Permit that would expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. We are very concerned with the health of the residents of Benton County, which depends on non-toxic air to breathe and unpolluted water to drink. The League has been addressing protection of health and the environment for many years, with established positions concerning air quality and water quality in relation to waste disposal facilities.

The League supports "regulation and reduction of ambient toxic air pollutants" [1:96-7]. Yet the data shows that Coffin Butte Landfill already pollutes the local atmosphere by leaking "explosive amounts of methane," according to an EPA investigation in 2022 and again in 2024 [2,3]. Republic Services and Valley Landfills have not solved the problem. With landfill expansion, methane in our atmosphere will become even worse. Methane contributes to forming ground-level ozone, "exposure to which causes a million premature deaths per year" and "over a 20-year period [methane] is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide" [4].

The League also believes that "[W]aste disposal facilities should be sited in areas that pose the least amount of risk to the public and to sensitive environmental areas... [with] stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking-water supplies, including protection of watersheds for surface supplies and of recharge areas for groundwater." [1:99]. We are concerned about the harm to residents due to the landfill's impacts on water quality. Leachates from the waste disposal site leak into nearby wells in an unpredictable fashion because of its base of fractured basalt [5] and because parts of the landfill are unlined or poorly lined [6]. In addition, the 30-35 million gallons of leachate trucked per year to Corvallis and Salem water treatment facilities pollute drinking water for all residents [7]. These treatment systems are not designed to process the chemicals that are washed from hazardous waste down into the soil [8].

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis strongly urges Benton County to oppose the expansion of the landfill for the sake of the health of Benton County residents.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Citations:

- [1] "A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the League of Women Voters 2022-2024"
- [2] EPA Region 10 Clean Air Act Inspection Report *Republic Services Coffin Butte Landfill* Inspection Date: June 23, 2022
- [3] EPA Region 10 Clean Air Act Partial Compliance Evaluation Inspection Report *Valley Landfills Inc. Coffin Butte Landfill* Inspection Date: June 21, 2024
- [4] UN Environment Programme: "Methane Emissions are Driving Climate Change. Here's how to reduce them." 20 Aug 2021
- [5] Interstate Technology Regulatory Council: <https://fracturedrx-1.itrcweb.org/1-introduction/>
- [6] Valley Landfill site development reports regarding Cells 1 and 1a. Benton County Talks Trash Solid Waste Process Workgroup Report, April 2023. Benton County, Oregon. Sections B and D. (Landfill Size/Capacity/Longevity p. 663, Past Land Use Application Conditions p. 795)
- [7] VLI's Annual Environmental Monitoring Reports (AEMRs) for 2023 and preceding years, as filed with Oregon DEQ.
- [8] The WWTPs in Corvallis and Salem are conventional activated sludge treatment plants. For a thorough discussion of the effectiveness of treatment technologies for the unique challenges posed by landfill leachate, see Wang J and Qiao Z (2024) A comprehensive review of landfill leachate treatment technologies. *Front. Environ. Sci.* 12:1439128. doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2024.1439128