

**From:** [Maureen Beezhold](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony about LU-24-027  
**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2025 3:48:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [Document1.docx](#)

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Dear BOC:

Please see attached letter regarding the expansion of the landfill.

Sincerely,

Maureen Beezhold



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Testimony about LU-24-027

From Maureen Beezhold

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To the Benton County Board of Commissioners:

[publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov)

I find it incredible to see the BOC is still considering this expansion of the landfill when it should be concerned with having the current landfill meet its environmental obligations.

I was a former chairperson of the Benton County Environmental Advisory Committee, back in the early 2000's, when one of the commissioners of that era tried to "sunset" the committee for actually being involved in environmental issues. I've worked as a sustainability consultant both here in Corvallis, Albany and the coast from 1999-2013.

Have we really made no progress?

Can you honestly and in good faith by pass the county's code regarding the landfill?

- *The proposed use does not seriously interfere with uses on adjacent property, with the character of the area\*, or with the purpose of the zone [**Benton County Code 53.215 (1)**]*

Of course, it seriously interferes with the area both adjacent and neighboring. Habitat degradation, odor, dangerous emissions, leachate all threaten both humans and wildlife along with flora.

It appears the landfill is unable to meet EPA requirements for its operation. Why are we not focusing on this instead of enlarging Coffin Butte's capacity to pollute?

AND

- *The proposed use does not impose an undue burden on any public improvements, facilities, utilities or services available to the area\* [**Benton County Code 53.215 (2)**]*

Does this expansion put a burden on public improvements? Of course, it does.

Who will pay for the roads destroyed by trucks coming from all over to add to the landfill?

Who will clean the air caused by an ever-bigger landfill?

Who will take care of people when they are ill from the increased emissions and contamination?

When I first moved to Corvallis in 1977, the landfill made headlines in the local paper when Wah Chang dumped radioactive waste there and very nearly killed a worker operating a bulldozer at the dump when it caught fire.

Now the pollution is a little more secretive but still very apparent. I, for one, resent the increased exposure, noise, traffic, habitat destruction that this landfill will create with an expansion.

Let's work on holding Republic Services accountable to meet existing EPA regulations at the very least and begin to actually showcase Benton County as one who actually "does" sustainability.