

**From:** [Catherine Stearns](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
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Statement in opposition to Republic Services request to expand Coffin Butte Landfill .

It is amazing to me that ever since the first Earth Day in the '70's, there has not been a consistent program to change our society to buy less, need less and recycle more.

I fear that until someone finds a way to make a profit from reduction of "stuff", we will continue the madness of endlessly filling holes in the ground with refuse

Other cultures have found viable alternatives to the ceaseless piling on of solid waste and still their societies thrive safely. We cannot wave a magic wand and make these human caused problems disappear. We can and must do better NOW.

We now have an opportunity to change the poisonous insanity of Coffin Butte Landfill into something less harmful to people, the earth, our water, air and wildlife of all forms. There is no need for a vast plume of lethal explosive methane gas to continuously poison our skies. There is no need for leachate to permeate soil and contaminate groundwater. There is no need for residents to continue to have their outdoor time fouled by "dump days" odors.

Rather, I prefer to focus on encouraging Benton county to make a historical decision and deny Republic services application for a conditional use permit. If all of the above mentioned "costs" of having Republic services in our county isn't enough to convince you, maybe the scientific, documented data from other county residents will.

In my opinion, the platitude of "if they check all the boxes then you cannot legally deny their application" is a manipulative strategy to deny you Commissioners the power to take a stand for our county's health and safety. Please do not be cajoled into doing business as usual. Please heed the concerns and warnings from hundreds of Benton County residents and deny Republic Services' application for a conditional use permit. Future generations will applaud your wisdom.