

Van Camp/Sovereign
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RE: Trash Land Use Expansion



April 13, 2025

Dear Benton County Commissioners,

Please do not approve any expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill. The Republic Services trash dump presents an existential threat to life in this valley. Any one of several disasters, awaits us in the future.

The badly situated dump emits toxic gas, endangering the health of every resident who draws breath. The filthy fluids seeping into the surrounding areas spoil the land and the water. A poorly timed spark and a high wind may burn uncontrollably as it ravages the forest and then our homes and businesses. There is no conceivable amount of money Republic Services could pay the county, that would pay for the remediation of this valley, when our air, water and soil have been poisoned beyond where it is safe to live. Who will make the residents whole? What parent will fund their child's University education here, if the water is neither safe to drink or bathe in? Why has our small county become the dumping ground for trash from around the Pacific Northwest. Why are our land, water, air and roads, being sacrificed in order to enrich Republic Services.

The time left before the current dump is full should be use to find a more favorable location for a new dump site for Benton County. Preferably land that is not next to a nature preserve, located over a significant water aquafer, on productive farmland. Such locations do exist. Republic Services has more than enough money to afford to find less dangerous locations. Their record profits could be used to improve recycling, but as they have told their shareholders, there is no profit in recycling. Promises they have made to the county in previous years have not been kept.

Please do not allow Republic Services to increase the amount of trash they heap onto our county.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Van Camp and Michael Sovereign

Residents, Corvallis