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To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Oppose/Deny LU-24-027
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This is testimony to express my strong opposition to LU-24-027. Please deny the application to expand the landfill.

I oppose this expansion request for myriad reasons, but this submission is about health issues. An expanded landfill will DEFINITELY be detrimental to the statewide goals promoted in the Benton County Comprehensive Plan: “maintaining and improving the quality of the air, water and land resources of the state.”

I worry that our air quality is already worsened by having the *existing* landfill (dangerous particulate matter, heavy metals, VOACs and sulfides and the use of toxic fly ash as daily cover). All of us are harmed by this (whether or not we know it). And issues with air quality don't stop at the landfill borders. Our water quality is also degraded. Dangerous leachate is produced and sent to our wastewater treatment plant (which *isn't even designed to process* leachate). The remaining leachate is threatening local soil and groundwater. What part of this can be considered OK? The fact that other counties have shut down their own polluting waste facilities tells us something. ANY effort to increase these harmful effects is the opposite of protection. Please don't fail us, your county's residents, in the way that some government agencies (OSHA, DEQ and EPA) as well as Republic Services have done. Let's try to remediate the existing damage of the landfill.

“We recognize and will address the well-being of our people by including health considerations in all policies, practices, activities and operations” (as stated in the 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative, Health in All Actions). Please protect our health by doing just that: by voting a resounding NO to this request to expand the landfill. We're counting on you.

With sincere thanks for your efforts on our behalf,
Mary Devine
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