

**From:** [Scott Lesko](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Scott Lesko](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose/Deny LU-24-027  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 16, 2025 11:22:47 AM

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Dear Benton County Commissioners,

The waste management situation in Benton County has gotten to the point where we need a change and we need to stop pursuing a failing strategy. The situation is not improving, on the contrary, it is getting progressively worse.

The Coffin Butte Landfill is a poor solution to our waste management challenges. The landfill continues to generate a huge volume of leachate that will continue well past the day it is finally closed. The landfill is in the wrong climate to work effectively. There is just too much rain and to top it off Corvallis is no longer going to process the leachate by the end of 2025. The leachate contains PFAS and heavy metals that cannot be removed with present-day wastewater treatment processes. They just get dumped into the Willamette river. The land around the dump is being contaminated by the leachate that leaks out of the landfill. The bigger the landfill, the more leachate is generated. This is in direct conflict with the Benton County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP) sections 6.1.4, 6.1.7, 6.5.4 & 6.5.5.

Although Republic Services is responsible for the maintenance of the landfill for 30 years after it closes, the long term financial and environmental liability for current and future generations will continue long after Republic Services is no longer maintaining the landfill. This ongoing liability will cost the county, and therefore taxpayers, an incredible amount of money and the environmental damage may not be recoverable. We need to reduce and minimize this never-ending liability by cutting our losses and STOP THE EXPANSION.

As I live miles away from the Coffin Butte landfill, I feel little personal effect from the landfill other than the scar it leaves on Benton County. However, the folks who live adjacent or nearby Coffin Butte are affected by the stinky, polluted air on a daily basis. This is a terrible situation that needs to be addressed to improve their quality of life. Let's not make it worse by expanding the landfill.

Expanding the Coffin Butte Landfill is the wrong answer. It only propagates an unmanageable situation. We need a different solution to our solid and hazardous waste problem. I think that we should investigate a waste management approach similar to Polk county's, i.e. a garbage transfer station next to a rail line (as proposed in Rickreall). The Portland & Western Railroad (PNWR) could meet this need for Benton County. This supports BCCP sections 6.3.1(reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT)) & 9.1.11 (continuation and expansion of rail service).

Please put an end to the status quo by stopping this expansion and moving forward with a new approach. Vote NO and STOP THE EXPANSION of the Coffin Butte landfill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Lesko

24669 Hidden Valley Road

Philomath, OR