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To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Benton County Planning Commission - re LU-24-027 - James Dashiell
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Esteemed Commissioners-

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed landfill expansion of Coffin Butte by Republic Services.

This is a land use issue that has major environmental consequences. The Coffin Butte landfill generates excessive methane and leachate, a problem that is in large part due to its location in an area that receives more than 20 inches of rainfall a year, and it's underlying slope. This is not an ideal foundation or location for a huge, regional landfill. This excessive runoff and off-gassing is effecting our waterways and air quality. Republic Services would like to continue making Coffin Butte a profitable expansion of their business in the Pacific Northwest, but ultimately it will be the citizens of this area who bear the cost of environmental degradation and the lasting legacy of this waste site.

I think that our best option would be to say, "Thanks, but no thanks." The EPA is investigating methane leaks and compliance issues with Republic Services, so as a responsible government and it's citizens, we should let these issues be settled by the agencies with the proper jurisdiction while we call Coffin Butte Land~~full~~ and wind down it's active influx. A Benton County approval of expansion to this site would not be helpful to any future EPA demands that might be enforced against the operations at this site.

Ideally we should be partnering with counties in Eastern Oregon and aid them in managing landfills as well as access to them. The people of Oregon need to know that we (Benton County) have considered options for the future of their non-recyclable, non-compostable, unable to be repurposed trash that doesn't rely *solely* on the corporate strategy of Republic Services. An Eastern Oregon landfill option/partnership would have much less methane and leachate problems, due to its lower rainfall and more arid topography. That's good for future generations of Oregonians. We can do better than an old Army quarry and its surroundings. This is a site that was never intended to become a solid waste dump for millions of citizens in the Pacific Northwest.

-James Dashiell

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