



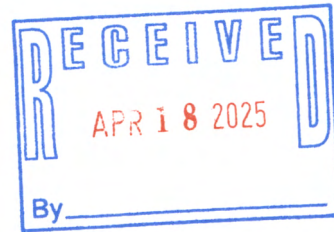
Nick Fowler, Chair
Benton County Commissioners
4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis

Butte Landfill

April 16, 2025

Benton County Planning Commission
Nick Fowler, Chair

Re: Coffin Butte Landfill



We urge the Benton County commissioners to reject the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.

The landfill is a threat to the health and safety of Benton County residents and others in nearby areas. Methane leakage has been under-reported by Valley Landfills. The EPA has detected explosive levels of methane on more than one occasion. Other hazardous pollutants, including mercury, lead and PFA "forever chemicals" have leached into the Willamette River creating a threat to all of the downstream Willamette Valley. Wind drift of noxious chemicals is easily detectable miles from the landfill. An expansion of the landfill can only increase these environmental threats in direct opposition to Sustainable Materials Management criteria endorsed by Benton County and the State of Oregon.

The long-term impact of an expansion of the landfill will be costly to Benton County in terms of Public Health, Water Treatment, mitigating air pollution, and eventually clean-up. It will constrain the county's capacity to invest in more positive public improvements. The landfill has already proved detrimental to recreationist tourism in Benton County.

There is no good reason for Benton County to continue to be the dumping ground for one-third of Oregon's solid waste--and every reason not to allow that to expand. For our public health, for the safety of our drinking water and the purity of the air we breathe, for the fiscal ability to create an attractive future for Benton County, please do not allow this expansion to take place.

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