

**From:** [Morrell, Tisha](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Republic application for Coffin Butte Expansion  
**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 2025 9:17:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Landfill response.docx](#)

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To whom it may concern:

Attached please find my comments on the application by Republic to expand Coffin Butte Landfill,

Thank you,  
Patricia Morrell

Patricia D. Morrell  
Professor Emeritus, University of Portland, School of Education  
Professor Emeritus, The University of Queensland, School of Education

19 April 2025

I am submitting these comments in response to the Republic Services proposed landfill expansion. With my husband, I own a home and property south of the landfill and close to the proposed expansion site: (38464 Highway 99W).

I am hoping that the expansion proposal will be denied for a variety of reasons. Some of the more pressing concerns are bulleted below:

- Current methane emission levels are unsafe. Methane levels have been linked to health concerns as well as adding to exacerbating conditions for climate change, increased concern with landfill fires, among others. While Republic is “working on” the issue, they have not yet remedied the current methane emissions and Increasing the size of the landfill will only add to the problems. Additionally, emission of other landfill gases, along with dirt and particulate matter (e.g., fiberglass dust) raises other health concerns.
- Odors from the landfill have obviously increased as the amount of waste they receive has increased. Unfortunately, since reporting the odors doesn’t result in any real action by the State and certainly not the landfill. As a result, we don’t bother to complain. I can’t imagine how many more days I’ll need to keep my house windows closed if the size of the landfill increases.
- Reports of unsafe practices (e.g, truck washing, questions of proper ash disposal, proper maintenance of equipment, malfunctioning systems, to name a few) have been witnessed and reported.
- Currently less than 10% (perhaps closer to 6%) of the waste in the landfill originates in Benton County, yet it is Benton County, its population, and its community that are being impacted negatively by the increased waste acceptance.
- Questions about ground water leachate without proper state and federal regulating capabilities make it unwise to risk the problems that would likely arise with an expansion into another groundwater system (i.e. different hill).
- There have been concerns raised with what would happen to the intake cap if the expansion is approved. We have already been told that the current cap has been ignored.
- The “meteorological, geologic, and population density are not conducive to a larger landfill tonnage” as described in a Benton County government issued document dating back two years prior to these latest two requests (see [https://cd.bentoncountyor.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/history\\_doc\\_-\\_updated\\_3-27-23.pdf](https://cd.bentoncountyor.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/history_doc_-_updated_3-27-23.pdf))

The landfill is a for-profit operation, is not a good neighbor, and has dragged its feet in addressing issues, doing as little as possible to maximise profits. It does, however, provide the County with a financial incentive to keep it growing, but at what cost to our community? Remember, the landfill needs to be managed long after it reaches capacity. And the landfill was originally approved with a set capacity in mind. Given past behavior, it is also of concern that Republic will be emboldened by an approved expansion and continue to ask to expand further.

The current landfill would not have been built where it is given our present-day knowledge of appropriate sites. Coffin Butte landfill should be permitted to reach its current preset life span and then be closed. It is time to move to better ways of managing our waste.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia D. Morrell  
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