

From: [Bethany Dengler-Germain](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Time sensitive testimony for LU – 24–027
Date: Sunday, April 20, 2025 10:35:10 PM

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Dear Planning Commission,

Sorry for the delay but I am submitting testimony regarding LU – 24–027, the application to expand the landfill. I want to be upfront and make it clear that I OPPOSE this application. Understand that I believe that this application should be urgently denied.

I understand that any approval of this land use application has to come from your judgment that the expanded landfill will not seriously interfere with the use on adjacent property, or with the character or the area, or with the purpose of the zone, and that the expanded landfill would not impose an undue burden on any public improvements, facilities, utilities, or services available to the area.

And that further you must judge that an expanded landfill will not force a significant change in, or increase to the cost of, accepted farm or forest practices on any surrounding lands, devoted to farm or for use; and that further still, you must judge that the expanded landfill will not significantly increase fire hazards or significantly increase fire suppression costs or significantly increase risks to people, engaged in fire suppression. And finally that our testimony may refer to relevant provisions in the Benton County comprehensive plan or development code that the land fill expansion would not comply with any of those plans.

As a concerned citizen, I want to emphasize that this hazardous expansion should NOT be in our backyards. I have children here and I want them to have a safe and healthy future in Corvallis. This landfill expansion is hazardous in many ways, especially increased fire danger with the known methane leaks that already exist coming out of Coffin Butte Landfill. Scientific data shows that the metering leaks can expand way past the landfill and the Lewisburg area during certain wind conditions. We already have issues with air pollution and air issues from agricultural dust, woodburning stoves, and smog from Portland. I have asthma and chronic breathing issues from long-haul Covid and so any issue with air quality greatly negatively affects me to the point where I need my regular inhalers, a rescue inhaler, and often nebulizer treatments.

The goals promoted in the Benton County comprehensive plan include “to maintain and improve the quality of the air, water, and land resources of the state; to protect people and property from natural hazards; to maintain and improve the variety of economic and social activities that are vital to the health, welfare, and prosperity of Oregon citizens.” Clearly the expansion of this landfill is contradictory to all of these plans. I grew up in the Lewisburg area and my dad still lives there and it’s our family heritage land. I can smell the landfill from there as well as all the way into town on 9th Street near market of choice. Many neighbors have expressed their frustration with the landfill smell, and there’s no place for an expansion let alone a good reason to in that area.

Please do not let this landfill expansion happen. It is absolutely the antithesis of what Corvallis

and the Benton County comprehensive plan is all about. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important topic. I hope that my input has been valuable to your decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Bethany Dengler-Germain