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## Testimony in Opposition to LU-24-027

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I am strongly opposed to LU-24-027 proposing the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill for the following reasons:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->The character of the area. The Coffin Butte Landfill is surrounded by farms and a wildlife area. Farms in the area raise beef cattle, blueberries and many other agricultural products. The landfill is completely out of character with the surrounding area.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->The landfill is an outsize contributor to greenhouse gas. Coffin Butte Landfill leaks massive amounts of methane gas from multiple areas of the landfill. Methane is a very potent greenhouse gas, about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after its release. Records from Republic Services measurements of methane release are at odds with independent measurements, and would suggest little to no leakage, while independent measurements indicate very high levels of methane leakage.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->The Coffin Butte Landfill is leaking toxin-laden water containing heavy metals and other toxins into the local water table. The aquifer is critical for homes and farms in the surrounding area, which rely on clean water for drinking and agricultural activities. The landfill lining is leaking in multiple locations in the landfill, and the oldest part of the landfill has no lining at all.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->In spite of the leaks, more than 30-35 million gallons of toxic leachate is collected each year and transported to the Corvallis and Salem water treatment plants. These plants were never designed to treat heavy metal wastewater, but rather sewage; therefore, effluent water is likely contaminated with toxins and is being discharged into the Willamette River. This leachate should be detoxified on site by Republic Services in a process specifically designed to detoxify the known heavy metals and other toxins in this liquid material.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->Republic Services transports waste from many surrounding counties and municipalities to the Coffin Butte Landfill. Therefore, Benton County is paying a steep environmental price and will ultimately have to clean up the damage at some future time when the landfill is abandoned by Republic Services (a violation of BCC 215(2)). It is estimated that Coffin Butte Landfill is taking in around 40% of the trash from the entire State of Oregon, as well as trash from parts of southern Washington state. Currently Republic Services is limited to 1.1 million tons of waste per year, but if LU-24-027 is approved, Republic Services plans to exploit a loophole in the 2020 Franchise Agreement to lift this cap, which would

allow for importing unlimited amounts of trash. If allowed to happen, this would increase profits for Republic Services at the expense of our community and environment, and ultimately the taxpayers of Benton County will have to pay a lot of money to clean up the mess after Republic Services abandons the landfill.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6. <!--[endif]-->I often drive near the landfill and have recreated on the public lands in the near vicinity. On several occasions when I have been on the E.E. Wilson game management area, the stench from the landfill was so bad that it caused me to curtail my recreation activities. The amount of escaped trash along Highway 99W near the landfill entrance is appalling, and the smell coming from the landfill is nauseating. I can only imagine how unpleasant the smell and escaped trash must be for the people who live nearby in and around the Soap Creek area, and anywhere downwind of the landfill. Clearly the current mitigation measures being undertaken by Republic Services and the absence of meaningful oversight of the landfill operations by officials of Benton County are woefully inadequate. This, like the ongoing environmental damage, will become much worse if LU-24-027 is approved.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->7. <!--[endif]-->The proposed expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill will increase the volume of very heavy truck traffic on the public roads, greatly accelerating the damage to the roads and necessitating untimely road repairs, a clear violation of BCC 53.215(2).