

From: [Bart Spiller](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Landfill expansion
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Benton County Planning Commission
Conditional Use Permit LU-24-026

Here we go again a large corporation wants to control the fate of our waste management system. While other communities have moved in a more forward looking direction Republic Services is happy with the status quo. The franchise agreement that Republic was granted means that they have until 2040 to continue as usual. That means we the citizens of Benton County are pretty much stuck with that agreement. We are already excepting 30% of Oregons Garbage how much longer will this go on. Let's stop this madness and come up with A different solution than expanding Coffin Butte for now and future generations.

We are at an important time for the people concerned and that is to at least stop Republic from expanding. I oppose the Conditional Permit LU-24-027 for expanding the landfill. This landfill is an environmental problem from its mere scale. We are talking uncontrolled methane release. How do we know that? Well not from Republic or Benton County Staff, but again from concerned citizens. Does the county have the funds to monitor and enforce the problems that will be created by an expanded landfill. The landfill is currently under investigation from the EPA for their poor management of emissions. We already have large amounts of leachate from the landfill that will continue to be extracted for many years with no end in sight. What are the long term legacy costs and environmental damage from toxic leachate released into the Willamette River. Do we really want to add to that total with an expanded landfill. As it is wildlife and recreation users including myself are already exposed to toxic leachate that pollute our waterways. That really goes against what Oregon represents to many of our citizens.

My wife and I live 4.5 miles from the landfill and we often can smell the landfill during inversions or east winds. Will our property value diminish over time as the landfill continues to expand only time will tell, but landfill expansion certainly will be a negative. One Neighbor has already decided that they weren't going to wait to find out they sold and moved. Benton County Comprehensive plan calls for the maintaining and improving the quality of air, water and land resources to protect people and property. In that case the landfill already fails at that. Expanding the land fill goes against the core goals of the Comprehensive Plan. As North Benton County residents we don't feel protected. We would really like to believe that our Benton County government will defend its citizens from outside interests and deny this expanded landfill.

Thanks for your consideration,
Bart Spiller
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