From: Greg Warburton
To: Benton Public Comment

Subject: Greg Warburton submitting my public comment, denial request of LU-24-027!

Date: Sunday, April 20, 2025 2:06:18 PM

Attachments: <u>image.png</u>

Greg"s statement rev1.docx

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Attention Benton County Planning Commission:

ATTACHED please find a word document with my public comments regarding Republic Services' Expansion request (LU-24-027).

I urge the Benton County Planning Commission (BCPC) to take a courageous and unanimous stand by promptly denying, on June 17,2025, Republic Services' repeated request to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL).

I do appreciate this opportunity to state my serious concerns and my position as a 40-year resident of Corvallis and Benton County.

Feel free to contact me:

greg.sportseft@gmail.com

541-971-9810 (Call/text)

Respectfully submitted, Greg Warburton



Greg Warburton

Sport Performance Mental/Emotional Fitness Training Coach

Licensed Professional Counselor

Founder: Inner Liberty, Inc.

Founding Member: Evolutionary Sports Collective, LLC. (Formerly, Sports, Energy

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Author:

- > Warburton's Winning System: Tapping and Other Transformational Mental Training Tools for Athletes
- > A Fast-Start Guide to Warburton's Winning System
- > Ask More, Tell Less: A Practical Guide for Helping Children Achieve

Self-Reliance

> Ask More, Tell Less for Coaches: The Practical Guide to Mastering

Coach-Athlete Communication New Book on Amazon

Web: gregwarburton.com (new website)

selfreliantkids.com

evosportscollective.com (new website)

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Phone: **541-971-9810** (call or text)

ATTN: Benton County Planning Commission

RE: Proposal to Expand the Coffin Butte Landfill (LU-24-027)

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I urge the Benton County Planning Commission (BCPC) to take a courageous and unanimous stand by promptly denying, on June 17,2025, Republic Services' repeated request to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL).

I am outraged and extremely concerned that Republic Services is again endeavoring to expand the CBL. **Let's remember** this December, 2021 headline: Benton County Planning Commission unanimously denied LU-21-047, the application by Republic Services to expand Coffin Butte Landfill, **finding that it would cause significant harm to Benton County.**

Three-plus years later, the CBL continues to be a toxic cauldron. And yet here we go again in 2025, Republic Services is seeking permission to expand and spill this toxic cauldron onto more neighboring lands. Dr. Shelley Su, retired OSU Public Health Department Professor and Toxicologist, recently stated: *I was greatly alarmed to learn of the unprecedented exceedance of methane concentrations from the CBL; plus, there are significant concerns about the handling of leachate generated at the landfill; leachate that contains many chemicals that are extremely toxic to the environment, including polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other heavy metals. Further, I have been informed that the landfill site and its methane releasing funnels also represent a continuous and significant fire hazard.*

The frightening result of this continuously operating toxic cauldron is that the CBL has not only significantly diminished the quality of life for those living in the area; it has also become literally life-threatening to plants, animals and us humans. And the area of impact continues to alarmingly expand as well.

I have lived in Corvallis since 1982 and love the Willamette Valley's cooler climes, as well as, the mountains and rivers and ocean in our geographic region. I am challenging the commissioners to take a long-term look at what will lead to an official end to the current CBL and preserve Corvallis and neighboring communities as a safe and

appealing place to live. I want to highlight this suggested long-term look does NOT include any expansions.

And about revenue generated for the county from this landfill operation, **let us remember,** Mark Yeager, civil and environmental engineer, highlighted in his "As I See It" article in the Gazette-Times newspaper on 09/05/24,

In the recently published "Solid Waste in Benton County FAQ" document, the county stated on Page 2, "Decisions to approve or deny land use permits at the landfill are not revenue-based decisions."

For a time, as I began learning about the issues, I wondered why Benton County Commissioners agreed to again review another expansion request. Now I am terrified as I become clear that even long-standing, life-threatening business operations are allowed to continue because the status quo is comfortable, recent history is hard to look at forthrightly and shuffling downhill to ecological and moral decline is easier than facing the upward climb of, ultimately, ending this landfill operation and building our own solutions. These reasons are precisely why I suggest, in my opening, the Commissioners will be required to take a courageous stand denying the expansion request and, thus, lead us to the start of different waste-management planning.

Ken Eklund, in his As I See It news piece on April 17, 2025 highlights Republic Services' evasion of the EPA's active legal action... should be GAME OVER (I add here, for the expansion)---but never underestimate Republic's commitment to this expansion, or its ability to steamroll reality.

In summary, I am dumbfounded that there is any consideration of expanding a business that has already proven to be dangerous and unsafe, in its practices at the landfill, to all in our geographic area.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Warburton MS, LPC