

From: [John Wilson](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Opposition to LU-24-027
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Benton County should be focused on improving the current operation of the Coffin Butte Landfill instead of allowing the expansion of its dangerous practices. Expansion of this landfill will only add to the current and future environmental liability that impacts our water, air and lands.

Millions of gallons of toxic leachate, including carcinogens and “forever chemicals”, are trucked to treatment plants in Corvallis and Salem where they are treated by simple dilution before being dumped into the Willamette River. It is only a matter of time, if it is not happening already, before this toxic brew is percolating into the underlying soil and groundwater, spreading and polluting the surrounding lands. In addition, regular methane leaks, polluting our air and contributing to climate warming, have been documented as violations for years.

State and federal regulators are providing virtually no regulatory enforcement. Corvallis and Benton County are not allowed oversight or enforcement. Republic Services can and does ignore regulations with little consequence.

Why would we allow this kind of mis-management of our environment and related health consequences to continue, much less dramatically increase?!

The yearly amount of waste dumped at Coffin Butte has doubled in the last 8 years, and it is my understanding that the annual cap on waste dumped at the landfill will go away with any expansion. Currently, more than 90% of the waste dumped at Coffin Butte originates outside of Benton County. And once we go down this road of increased waste it is not likely to stop with just one expansion. There are other landfill sites in Oregon situated in better environments for waste disposal. Those are the places that should be looked to for expansion.

There are many reasons why my wife and I moved to Corvallis over 30 years ago, raised our daughters here and continue to live here. The continued emphasis on a healthy, natural environment is at the top of the list. Please do not allow this expansion to go forward.

Sincerely, John Wilson
Retired Ecologist

Sent from my iPad