

From: [Dave Alba](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Opposition to Landfill Expansion
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I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed landfill expansion and to urge the planning commission not to approve the proposal.

Firstly, the landfill already places an undue burden on the county's environment and quality of life, especially when considering that Benton County accounts for less than 10% of the trash brought to the landfill. Toxic leachate is contaminating the Willamette River and local groundwater. Methane is polluting the air, along with other airborne particles and noxious (and potentially harmful) volatile gases. Further expansion of the landfill will lead to an even higher rate of methane generation which, especially in such a wet climate, will adversely impact our shared global environment. Furthermore, I am also concerned about rising levels of arsenic, which is showing up in monitoring wells at the edge of the landfill site, and may be spreading to rural household wells and irrigation wells which have not yet been tested.

The proposed expansion of landfill operations will also hurt the rural character of the area, particularly along Hwy 99W as far north as Rickreall or McMinnville. Many of us who enjoy the natural and rural beauty of the region are disturbed by the plastic trash seen out in farm fields. Our rural Oregon character must be preserved and not polluted by windblown trash.

For these reasons, the proposed landfill expansion can not be approved. Rather, the county should be improving waste reduction strategies, including incentives, improved services and public education. Ultimately, the landfill should be modeled after Lane County and converted to a municipal site that does not prioritize profits over the well-being of county residents.

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