

**From:** [Jaclyn Batchelor](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [writerguy@writerguy.com](mailto:writerguy@writerguy.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony about LU-24-027; Application to Expand the Landfill  
**Date:** Monday, April 21, 2025 4:43:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony Opposing LU-24-027.pdf](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

Attached please find my testimony about LU-24-027, the application to expand the landfill.

I strongly oppose this application and urge denial of this application.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jaclyn Batchelor  
RN & Soap Creek Resident

**Jaclyn Batchelor**

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**April 19, 2025**

Republic Services – Coffin Butte Landfill

Corvallis, OR

**Re: LU-24-027 Opposition to Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jaclyn and I am writing this testimony about LU-24-027 (the application to expand the landfill) to express my strong opposition to the proposed application expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill and to urge denial of this application. My husband and I recently moved onto our dream parcel of land, adjacent to Oregon State University's property, with hopes of building our future here. We have invested nearly everything we had —myself working long hours and enduring brutal shifts as a nurse—to be able to afford land in this peaceful and beautiful part of Oregon.

We were drawn to this area by its natural charm, the warmth of the community, and the promise of a quiet place to call home. Since moving in, however, we've found ourselves battling something we never expected: the weekly stench of the landfill as well as fire, environmental, and safety concerns. On a weekly basis now, the smell of garbage sweeps through our property, disrupting our quality of life and making us question the very future we were so excited to build here. We've started with a tiny house and have long-term plans to build a larger home. But with the landfill expansion looming, those plans are now on hold. We are *genuinely* reconsidering whether this is a place where we can live long-term, raise a family, and thrive.

Our greatest dream is to start a small family farm—one that welcomes visitors from all over who are seeking a chance to reconnect with nature. We envision people walking through gardens of wildflowers, de-stressing as they take in the crisp, clean fresh air, and experiencing the simple beauty of this area that first drew us in. Now this may be a broken promise to guests if they happen to be here on a day where we get a *wicked whiff* of the landfill down the road and I have an incredible number of concerns regarding safety and increased costs incurred from a business standpoint.

Without doubt, the landfill expansion *directly* imposes an undue burden on our ability to farm, live sustainably, and share this land with others and would not only seriously interfere with how we would want to use it, but would destroy the character of the area and significantly increase the cost of farming and forest practices for us with our intent to farm and promote a flourishing forest on our now bare land. Furthermore, it would significantly increase our fire hazard risk as well as fire suppression costs; costs we cannot afford. Being far from town in this quaint,

isolated valley with it's long, bumpy, pot-holed country roads and no street lights poses an undue burden and significant increased risk to people engaged in fire suppression; these are protectors, saviors and servants to our community and we have a *duty* to protect them and this land and uphold morals congruent with using our community resources wisely. Protecting the people who would be battling fires, potential hazards and environmental emergencies should be considered of utmost importance and I have many memories of my father, who is a firefighter, coming home from fires reeking head to toe of smoke. I pray the exposures these public servants face don't impact their health in the future but it's a risk they have to take.

Again, I am deeply concerned about the safety & environmental effects of this proposed expansion as well as the undue change in cost this would incur on residents, the majority of whom are older and on a fixed income. Coffin Butte sits in a sensitive area, surrounded by rich ecosystems, charming farmland, and home to majestic wildlife. Not only does expanding the landfill bring up significant safety concerns around fire hazards, increased air and water pollution, and further degradation of this environment we all cherish, it would also burden public improvements, facilities, utilities and services in the area.

In accordance with Benton County's land use regulations, the proposed landfill expansion should not force a significant change in, or significantly increase the cost of, accepted farm or forest practices on surrounding lands devoted to those uses. It should **not** significantly increase fire hazard or the risks faced by those engaged in fire suppression activities. Yet, this expansion would do exactly that—placing added pressure on our environment, our safety, and our ability to steward the land. Furthermore, my testimony directly references provisions within the Benton County Comprehensive Plan and Development Code, with which the landfill expansion proposal *fails* to comply. An expanded landfill inherently runs counter to these values, criteria, and regulations—values put in place to protect exactly the kind of life we are trying to build here.

I've spoken with several neighbors who have lived in this area for years, and many have shared that previous promises made by Republic Services were not upheld—whether about odor control, visual barriers, or limits to expansion. This erodes public trust and makes it difficult to believe that any new assurances will be honored.

I ask that you please reconsider and deny the application for expansion, not only for my family but for all the residents who live near Coffin Butte as I feel this would impose an undue burden on public improvements, facilities, utilities and services available to the area.

We are grateful and proud to be part of this community, and we pray we can stay here, but we need to know that our voices—and our safety, health, homes, and hopes—matter more than corporate interests. We beg you to deny the application for the Coffin Butte landfill expansion.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,  
Jaclyn Batchelor  
RN & Proud Soap Creek Resident

