

From: [George Hutchinson](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 : Coffin Butte Landfill Proposed Expansion
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025 11:42:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners-

My family of voters—daughter Molly Hutchinson, son Connor Hutchinson and I are strongly opposed to any expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill.

We have lived in Benton County for almost twenty years. We were drawn to Corvallis because of the quality of its public schools, OSU, the town's commitment to alternative means of transportation, the existence of the Sustainability Coalition its commitment to protect our and natural environment and the commitment of Corvallis voters to maintain that. The fact that the landfill—the dump—is as close to town as it is challenges our commitment to public health and a sustainable environment.

The landfill is, and will continue to be, a toxic waste site. As the Audubon Society correctly stated: "We oppose any further expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill and urge the Planning Commission to reject this application. We believe the Planning Commission will find that the Applicant, Republic Services, does not provide evidence to conclude that conditional use permit issuance would not violate County Development Code criteria and Comprehensive Plan policies. Further, based on its current performance, Republic Services cannot be expected to demonstrate that it can assure the County of its future compliance with any conditions that the county might issue.

We assert that any approval of Application LU-24-027 would directly violate Benton County Code criteria 53.215(1) and 53.215(2). We further assert that such a decision would violate or otherwise evade County Comprehensive Plan policies 5.1.2, 5.1.5, 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.6.7, 5.7.4, 5.8.2, 5.9.1, 5.9.4, 5.9.5, 5.9.7, 6.1.2, 6.5.7 and 6.5.8. In addition, as Benton County has committed to a Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under Section 10 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act, covered species protections and long-term actions committed to by Benton County under the accompanying Prairie Conservation Strategy must not be further compromised by permitting further expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. Such approval would also directly counter state-wide goals for species and county-identified priority habitats under the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Management Plan and the Oregon Conservation Strategy."

For generations this site will be producing and leaking climate changing methane gas, odors that affect neighbors and travelers, and leachate that contaminates ground water and the

Willamette River. Though good management practices could reduce, but not eliminate, the adverse effects of the landfill on our community, the history of management at Coffin Butte landfill has not indicated compliance with best practices.

The county needs to develop waste management plans that eliminate land filling. Alternatives could include packaging which is either compostible or already has an established market for recycling/reuse. It is high time we all recognize that there is no safe "throwing away" of toxic materials and chemicals on our planet.

Thank you for rejecting this proposed expansion and for working to create an alternative to land filling—burying our toxic garbage.

Sincerely,

George Hutchinson 305 SE Park Avenue Corvallis, OR 97333