

From: [Mark Lee](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Oppose/Deny LU-24-027
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025 1:01:44 PM

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Dear Benton County Planning Commissioners,
My name is Mark Lee and I live at 2038 NW Lance Way in Corvallis Oregon.

I am writing because I oppose LU-24-027, the application to expand the landfill.

The more I learn about it, the more incredulous I become that the landfill expansion would even be considered. What I have learned is that Republic is not fulfilling its role as a good manager of the landfill currently. So why should we entrust them with an even larger site to manage? This lack of proper management is borne out by a January enforcement action taken by the EPA, which implies that Republic has been misrepresenting their environmental compliance. This includes improper methane and leachate release into the environment. As a water boater and lover of the Willamette River and hiker in the EE Wilson area, I find this very disturbing. But of course my concerns are not nearly as important as the residents that live in the surrounding area around the landfill. I have seen a diagram of the Methane plume contaminating the homes and farms along Soap Creek Rd and can only feel relief that I do not live in that area though I have some very good friends that do. These are real people, families with children, not to mention wildlife and farm animals that are currently being affected by the mismanagement of the landfill by Republic. All these concerns about the current problems with the landfill obviously need to be addressed and resolved before entrusting more waste into the hands of Republic. I see no reason to believe that Republic would somehow do a better job of managing an enlarged footprint of their facility.

What really bothers me most is the fact that less than 7% of the waste being sent to the landfill is from Benton County! What?!! Why should we, and why would we, expand the problems mentioned above in our county while other counties' solution to their waste problem is to ship it to our county. This may sound like a NIMBY issue but it is way more than that. We already have the problem in our backyard, which apparently is too big for us to handle as is. So now we have this problem, we have to deal with it, but not by adding to it by literally creating another mountain of waste from other counties. Frankly, this makes no sense to me, not even close! By not allowing the expansion, solutions to the issue of what to do with all the waste humans generate is broadened to include the rest of the State of Oregon. There is no lack of creativity in Oregon but sometimes action is only taken when a problem has become untenable. I believe that time is now!

It may seem counterintuitive, but truly, the solution to mountains of waste may be not expanding the places where it can be put. At the very least in this case, not allowing more waste disposal in Benton County could lead to other solutions, in other places, more well suited to a landfill of this type. To this point, it is my understanding that this landfill site was a relic from Camp Adair during WWII and was only meant to be temporary since it was not the proper climate, soil and subsurface geology for a landfill of this type.

Please stand shoulder to shoulder with the residents of Benton County who see so clearly that this expansion should not be allowed. This is their lives at stake, their children's lives: the land, the wildlife, the water, the air are all at stake. Benton County has put together a Comprehensive Plan that states very clearly that we, as stewards of this land, "should maintain and improve the quality of the air, the land and natural resources." Let us not shirk our duty and allow profit-driven pressures to sway our vision away from this very important and lofty goal. Make Republic bear the burden of proof, as is mandated, that this expansion will not impact our quality of life as residents and stewards of Benton County. They must meet the criteria laid out clearly in BCC 53.215 (1) and (2). What is clear is that they have not met those criteria in their application for this expansion. So I state emphatically once again that I oppose any expansion now or in the future, and ask that you therefore deny their application to expand the landfill in Benton County. We have entrusted you, the Planning Commissioners, to make this decision and trust that you will make the correct decision based on your love and concern for this small corner of Oregon we all call home.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Lee

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