

From: [Lembke Keith](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Benton's Republican Resolution against expansion
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Attachments: [SignedBCRCBRES.pdf](#)

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Four times in the last sixty years people in this county recognized the Landfill as an environmental threat to their health and safety; three times the county commissioners said told them to accept a short term solution while they would find a long term solution. Three times no long term solutions were found, probably because the state government doesn't want a change. So now we are at the point if it is not stopped, then trash will be dumped in our county from 36 other counties for the next century. Adair will become the trash capital of the West Coast...maybe we can sell tourists packages to see it. Time to stop it and force the state to find a "real" environmentally sound solution.

Keith Lembe



Benton County Republicans

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The Central Committee of the Benton County Republican Party formally opposes any further expansion of the Benton County Coffin Butte Landfill as of April 19, 2025.

WHEREAS the Republican Party is deeply committed to the health and welfare of all residents and visitors in Benton County, regardless of race, gender, age, or economic standing;

WHEREAS the Republican Party holds a strong appreciation for the natural beauty of the Willamette Valley and is dedicated to maintaining a healthy environment characterized by clean air and water;

WHEREAS the Republican Party advocates for sustainable and well-managed agricultural and forestry practices that support our vital farmlands and forestlands;

WHEREAS the landfill presents significant risks to the quality of air, water, and land in our valley, thereby jeopardizing the health and well-being of all living beings;

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified 41 methane leaks at the landfill in 2024, with numerous instances exceeding the legal limit of 500 parts per million (ppm);

WHEREAS more than 31 million tons of leachate are discharged into the Willamette River annually through wastewater facilities in Salem and Corvallis;

WHEREAS the Coffin Butte Landfill releases thirty different hazardous air pollutants;

WHEREAS the landfill has expanded considerably establishing itself as a dominant feature in the county and continues to grow at a rate of over 1.1 million tons per year;

WHEREAS the county and state governments have shown an inadequate capacity or willingness to appropriately monitor, inspect, and enforce the operational regulations and statutes pertaining to the landfill as required by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 459;

WHEREAS there are other viable alternatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to safeguard our air, water, and land, to preserve the natural beauty of our valley, to enhance the productivity of our farmlands and forests, and to protect the health of our residents, the Benton County Republican Party strongly endorses the rejection of any expansion requests for the existing landfill or any new landfill within the county. The Benton County Republican Party requests the County Commissioners create a new and inclusive planning process to accommodate equal and fair consideration of all other options.


R Keith Lembke

Chairman, Benton County Republican Party

19 APRIL, 2025

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