

**From:** [Jon Sobotka](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose/Deny Application File Number LU-24-027  
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## **I oppose the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion.**

I have lived in Benton County for over 36 years, I hope to continue living here for a long time.

The Coffin Butte Landfill (It is difficult to imagine a more aptly named landfill) at its current size is already a significant source of several kinds of pollution and hazards as has been thoroughly documented in other letters you have received.

If expanded, these toxic and environmental problems will only become more substantial and as planned there will be then

no limitations to how much can then be dumped. It is challenge enough for Benton County citizens to provide the land, suffer the air and water pollution, and endure the nauseating smells indefinitely for the garbage they and their closest neighbors produce.

However, it is **too much and greatly unfair** to ask the citizens of Benton County to suffer even more such dangers and irritations when 30% of the garbage of the entire State of Oregon is deposited in Coffin Butte—and should most certainly be **deposited elsewhere**.

We moved to Corvallis in 1988 when my daughter was an infant. Many of her diapers were sent to Coffin Butte and are entombed there to this day.

Yesterday was Easter Holiday, April 20, 2025. Easter will not occur again on April 20 until 2087. My daughter's diapers will still be there, as anticipated, perhaps continuing to produce some of the Methane which is so problematic even today. So when my daughter is 99 years old (most hopefully)

she and many others will still be vulnerable to her ancient diapers potentially contributing to problems at the Coffin Butte Landfill. Her diapers and those of many other wonderful children who have grown up in Corvallis pose quite enough risk for now and the future, we **should not add** the diapers from 30% of the rest of the state of Oregon, and most likely create future intolerable misery for the citizens of Benton County.

I wish to further highlight how Coffin Butte is violating and making impotent the standards, goals, and aspirations of the Citizens of Benton County for their quality of living below.

I believe Coffin Butte is currently in violation of the goals and standards for the health, wellbeing, environmental quality, and recreational opportunities of the residents of Benton County, as determined in February 2018.

These same standards and goals (as noted below) are much desired and anticipated to be the same in 2040.

### **Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative: Ensuring Communities' Core Values Today & for Our Future**

A community-driven initiative to secure what we like about where we live and to guide efforts to ensure our Core Values now and in the future

#### **Based on the Principles of Equity & Health, Benton County Strives to Ensure:**

"Vibrant, Livable Communities"

"Supportive People & Resources"

**"High Quality Environment & Access"** High Environmental Quality, Conservation of Natural Resources, Consideration of Carrying Capacity, and Easy Access to the Outdoors

"Diverse Economy that Fits"

"Community Resilience"

"Equity for Everyone"

**"Health in All Actions"** We Recognize & Will Address the Well-Being of our People by Including Health Considerations in all Policies, Practices, Activities, & Operations



I believe it is also in violation of the

## **Benton County Comprehensive Plan, Goal 6** (as Adopted 2007)

Air, Water & Land Resource Quality:

To maintain and improve the quality of air, land, and water resources in a manner that will meet current needs and preserve resources for future generations.

Policy Sections

6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.6

General Policies, Water Resources, Air Resources, Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, 6.6 Noise and Glare

### **6.5 Landfills and Solid Waste**

6.5.e Land use decisions at the Coffin Butte Sanitary Landfill have provided another 43 years of capacity to the site, continuing to serve as a regional landfill serving Linn, Polk, Lincoln, and Benton Counties.

As per Benton Co. Environmental Health Dept.

How is this relevant to our present concerns? It certainly refers to just the garbage for our local 4 counties, and not the additional 30% of the rest of the state.

6.5.f The Coffin Butte Landfill is currently in compliance with permits and is heavily monitored by the County.

Leachate is collected and treated. A leak detection system is in place to monitor the bottom liner of the landfill for leaks. Monitoring wells surround the perimeter of the landfill.

As per Benton Co. Environmental Health Dept.

There is much documentation that these expectations are not being achieved.

### **It should also be noted:**

The State of Oregon has parallel standards and goals:

Statewide Planning Goal 6

To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water and land resources of the state. All waste and process discharges from future development,

when combined with such discharges from existing developments shall not threaten to violate, or violate applicable state or federal environmental quality statutes,

rules and standards. With respect to the air, water and land resources of the applicable air sheds and river basins described or included in state environmental quality statutes,

rules, standards and implementation plans, such discharges shall not (1) exceed the carrying capacity of such resources, considering long range needs; (2) degrade such resources;

or (3) threaten the availability of such resources.

Excerpt from OAR 660-015-0000

Thank you very much for your time and energy as you evaluate my

concerns,

Jon D. Sobotka