

From: [Melissa Livingston](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Oppose/Deny LU-24-027
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:19:31 PM

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To the Benton County Planning Commission,

My name is Melissa Livingston, and I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the proposed expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill.

As a mother of three young boys and a resident of Corvallis for the past ten years, I care deeply about the health, safety, and well-being of my family and my community. My children and I regularly swim and boat on the nearby Willamette River—a treasured public resource that is increasingly threatened by pollution from this landfill. The leachate draining from Coffin Butte is already contaminating our watershed, and with this proposed expansion, that pollution is expected to grow. It must stop. This is not just unacceptable—it is a violation of BCC 53.215(2) and Benton County Comprehensive Plan policies 5.1.2, 5.2.1, and 5.7.4.

Beyond water quality, this expansion poses serious risks to **air quality, climate impacts, and our broader community image**. We are already witnessing increased truck traffic, noise, odor, and fire hazards—problems that will only intensify with a larger landfill. This threatens local wildlife, recreational access, property values, and long-term community well-being. It also puts local housing, future employment opportunities, and the very character of our area at risk.

But what concerns me most is that these risks are not hypothetical. Benton County’s own "Talks Trash" final report confirmed that **none** of the “Conditions of Approval” from previous landfill expansions were ever enforced. How can the public be asked to trust that any new conditions will be upheld when the county has a track record of failing to enforce existing ones? Approving this expansion would be a clear violation of BCC 53.215(1) and (2).

This landfill is already incompatible with its surrounding land uses—and this expansion would only make that worse. I urge the Planning Commission to protect the health of our river, our environment, and our community. **Reject this application.**

Sincerely,

Melissa M M Livingston

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