

From: [Debora Johnson](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: resubmitting comment on LU-24-027
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 1:40:06 PM

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We are resubmitting the comments that we provided on Monday, April 21 at 4:17 p.m. but which were not included in the compiled public comments.

Dear Benton County Planning Commissioners:

Our Names are Debora L. and K. Norman Johnson
28831 Tampico Road, Corvallis OR. 97330
541-745-5261

We have lived at our current residence near Coffin Butte Landfill for 30 years. We oppose Republic Services' Conditional Use Permit application LU-24-027 to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

Over the past 30 years we have watched as:

- The landfill's wetland mitigation projects have gone from ponds with native plant species heavily used by waterfowl, to ponds overgrown by invasive species like the yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). The adjacent uplands are increasingly covered by an expansive and diverse assemblage of invasive species.
- Production at what was once a modest quarry ramped up and took down an entire side of Coffin Butte leaving an enormous scar.
- The noise from backup beeping alarms on landfill equipment has continued to increase and oftentimes starts very early in the morning (although we were told 30 years ago by landfill employees that quieter backup warning systems were available).
- There has been a general decrease in communication between landfill representatives and the local community. It seems like Republic Services has absolutely no interest in the well-being or concerns of nearby residents.

We oppose the landfill expansion proposal because we believe that:

- The natural environment on the lands owned by Republic Services in and around the landfill will continue to be degraded and destroyed.
- The expansion that we have watched over the past 30 years as more and more refuse is taken in from distant locations has impacted both the community and the environment. The landfill is poorly located to begin with and should not be allowed to expand without end.
- The groundwater that provides the water that we drink and the water we use for our large vegetable gardens could be irreversibly contaminated.
- The noise from the backup beeping will only get worse.
- Methane emissions from the landfill are poorly managed and contribute to anthropogenic climate warming.

Republic Services should not begin to discuss landfill expansion until it has made significant progress filling the quarry and restoring Coffin Butte to its former pastoral beauty. We believe that this will take quite a few years, during which time they could also try to build community trust.

Thank you for considering our comments.