

From: [Sue Powell](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: LU-24-027 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 9:52:38 PM
Attachments: [Landfill 3.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My testimony was delivered on april 21 at 3:54 pm. I did not receive an email confirming my submission, and it did not get added to the staff report. Please add it as soon as possible.

- Sue Powell

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sue Powell <jabirusue@comcast.net>
Subject: LU-24-027 Testimony
Date: April 21, 2025 at 3:54:28 PM PDT
To: publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov

Please accept my testimony, which is copied below and is also an attachment PDF.

Respectfully,

Susan L. Powell
jabirusue@comcast.net
April 21, 2025

I strongly oppose the approval of LU-24-027 which will expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

In 2022, an EPA inspection found very high ("explosive") levels of methane at Coffin Butte Landfill. Landfills are responsible for emitting 30+ hazardous air pollutants including particulate matter, heavy metals and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

My concern is not only air pollution, but past, current, and future health problems due to the contamination by leachate, odors, bacteria and viruses, and more.

Each year 30-35 million gallons of leachate runoff from the landfill are trucked to Corvallis and Salem wastewater treatment plants where "treatment" primarily consists of dilution, and the "treated" water is then is dumped directly into the Willamette River. In Corvallis, the "treatment" outfall is downstream of the drinking water intake, although should be of **grave concern to any municipality north of the treatment water outfall** until the Willamette flows to the Columbia

River and is further diluted.

My background with the state government included water quality monitoring of an estuary using automated data collection every 30 minutes, 24 hours/day. and 365 days/year. We also worked with the Oregon DEQ to monitor bacterial contamination of the water.

Is Republic Services monitoring leachate and air pollution? Unbiased and professionally using EPA methods? How frequently? Do they even have the capability?

Of greater concern are the PFAS, or Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. We know that the level of **one type of FPAS is exponentially higher at Coffin Butte than any other landfill in Oregon** (data available). These 15,000+ synthetic chemicals are commonly used, and they breakdown very slowly. How harmful they are to humans is also not well studied, but it is clear that some cancers, reproductive, and development effects occur. And we don't know how long they last or how to get rid of them. Drinking water is definitely a major concern and none of the wastewater treatment sites monitor PFAS. **Leachate always ends up in some waterway** as it is gravity fed to the lowest elevation possible.

Neither Corvallis nor Salem water treatment facilities monitor for PFAS.

The regulators of the landfill are: Oregon DEQ, EPA, Oregon OSHA. **There is no oversight by Benton County using their own land use requirements.**

Fines incurred by Republic Services for environmental-related offenses: \$160 million

Waste Management Inc: \$29 million

Finally, I shudder to think that it is very possible that we will have a Super Fund site in the near future. Who then is responsible, and how can you put a value on human health? When Republic Services/Waste Management declares bankruptcy, will we wish that we stopped this when we could.

Please do not allow Republic Services to expand the landfill and remove and increase the foreign waste motorcade to our backyard.

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jabirusue@comcast.net
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April 21, 2025

From: [Sue Powell](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: LU-24-027 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 9:54:12 PM
Attachments: [Landfill 2.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My testimony was delivered on April 21 at 4:15 pm. I did not receive an email confirming my submission, and it did not get added to the staff report. Please add it as soon as possible since it was legally qualified..

- Sue Powell

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sue Powell <jabirusue@comcast.net>
Subject: LU-24-027 Testimony
Date: April 21, 2025 at 4:15:08 PM PDT
To: publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov

Please accept my testimony, also attached as a PDF file.

Thank you,
Susan L. Powell
jabirusue@comcast.net
April 21, 2025

I strongly oppose the approval of LU-24-027 which will expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

We were so pleased to find such great wildlife and birding opportunities nearby when we moved to Benton County in 2006. Unfortunately, we did not expect the drastic expansion of the landfill from then until now, and are aghast that Republic Services intends to expand much further.

We no longer visit the EE Wilson Wildlife Area because of increased, and often nauseating, odors even when the wind is not from the west. There is more roadside trash, noise, and traffic from 99W to the east, north, and south due to the constant transport of trash from cities outside Benton County.

I expect the county commissioners and staff will adhere to the Thriving Communities Initiative as approved. Values include environmental quality, vibrant and livable community, diverse robust economy, and **health and equity**. Benton County residents overwhelmingly hold to these same values.

The expansion is bad for people and wildlife as leachate, odors, predators, and more, threaten public health and safety. These Benton County Code sections have been ignored:

Benton County Code 53.215(1) - proposed use does not seriously interfere with uses on adjacent property and character. Republic Services was observed conducting large-scale land sculpting, continuously ignoring the ODFW required setback to not interfere with an existing heron rookery for 3 years (documented via Google Earth maps). Monitors have also documented a vast increase in predatory birds (gulls, starlings, etc.) with directly prey on birds adjacent to the landfill and in wildlife corridors. This has resulted in a major decrease of Willamette Valley bird populations near the site (documentation available).

The expansion is contrary to **Benton County Code 53.215(2)** which addresses undue burdens on public facilities.

The expansion is counter to the **Benton County Comprehensive Plan (BCC) 5.9.4** policy to protect wildlife, **BCC Plan 5.1.2** policy to preserve and restore natural habitats and integrity, and **BCC Plan 5.2.1** policy to restore natural functions.

Please do not vote to make money more important than nature and livability.

Respectfully,

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April 21, 2025

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April 21, 2025

From: [Sue Powell](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: LU-24-027 Republic Landfill Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 9:55:01 PM
Attachments: [Landfill 4.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My testimony was delivered on April 21 at 4:14 pm. I did not receive an email confirming my submission, and it did not get added to the staff report. Please add it as soon as possible since it was legally qualified.

- Sue Powell

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sue Powell <jabirusue@comcast.net>
Subject: LU-24-027 Republic Landfill Testimony
Date: April 21, 2025 at 4:14:20 PM PDT
To: publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov

Please accept my testimony below and also included as a PDF>

Respectfully,

Susan L. Powell
jabirusue@comcast.net
April 21, 2025

I strongly oppose the approval of LU-24-027 which will expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

Should Republic Services application to expand the landfill ignore their past history of problems?

Why not - there couldn't be clearer evidence of future problems.

There have been leaks from closed ponds, using heavy machinery to level an area within a restricted zone for wildlife (nesting heron rookery), monitoring an unused heron rookery instead of a current one, and then claiming there was no rookery.

Worst of all: fines incurred by Republic Services for environmental-related offenses: \$160 million, and Waste Management Inc: \$29 million

Republic Services has not been a good landlord of our Benton County Landfill.

They are the second largest provider of waste disposal in the United States (as measured by revenue), and they consider the dollar before the environment at every opportunity.

Please do not allow Republic Services to expand the landfill and remove and increase the foreign waste motorcade to our backyard.

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From: [Sue Powell](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 Republic Landfill Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 10:05:39 PM
Attachments: [Landfill 1.docx](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I submitted this testimony about LU—027 on your website on April 21 prior to 5:00 pm. I did not receive an acknowledgment, but when I called the office, the staff member assured me it would be in the staff report.

Please add this testimony as it legally qualified for the report.

Respectfully,

Susan L. Powell
jabirusue@comcast.net
April 24, 2025

I strongly oppose the approval of LU-24-027 which will expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. When we decided to move to Benton County in 2006, it was mainly because of its "livability," which met our personal values. Now, approaching Corvallis from the north on Hwy 99, the dump is a horrendous sight. Little did we know the following facts when we moved here:

- Benton County generates only 7% of the annual 67,000 tons of waste that arrives at the Coffin Butte Landfill
- Cities outside Benton County deposit 93.3% of the waste or 927,945 tons - annually, which arrives in diesel-powered trucks.

Why are these outside cities not disposing of their own waste on their own lands?

Are these cities recycling usable materials - who knows what is in that waste?

Does this mean that the Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative is just whitewash? community-driven, visioning process that uses community-identified Core Values in order to address long-term, complex issues.

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