

From: [Grant Carlin](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Landfill testimony "Oppose"
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Attachments: [Testimony against landfill expansion April '25.docx](#)

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Benton County Planning Commission Testimony

Regarding Application 3 LU-24-027

“Oppose LU-24-027

4/27/2025

My name is Grant Carlin; my address is 38581 Soap Creek Rd. Corvallis, OR 97330. I am writing in opposition to Republic Services’ proposed Coffin Butte landfill expansion.

Noise Pollution:

My wife and I live nearly adjacent to and just west of Republic’s proposed cell site’s location south of Coffin Butte Rd. We and our neighbors, will be directly and adversely impacted if Republic Services’ application to expand is approved.

I will address the issues most concerning us ranging from personally experienced and periodically on-going, to those likely to arise given Republic’s history with it landfill neighbor nationally.

NOISE LEVELS:

In its the initial CUP, Republic’s hired sound consultant cavalierly dismissed our concerns stating that even though the new cell would be a half mile closer, “Noise emissions for the on-site operations are unlikely to increase...” That is total hogwash, to put it politely. Facts prove otherwise. On several days since the initial application was withdrawn, Republic has engaged in operations directly east of their current office location, in the area of the proposed expansion. These operations have included placing and later removing a huge pile of fill dirt that was stored there as excavations were being done on top of Coffin Butte. Among the equipment used were countless trucks clanging doors, braking loudly and sounding horns, loud pile drivers and large front-end loaders with back-up horns that can be heard for two miles. When Republic has been operating temporarily in this proposed expansion site it is so noisy that my dogs are too frightened to go outside. When I called Republic to inquire what was going on, the site manager politely apologized

for the racket and said it would be done in a few more days. This is a direct refutation of the company's hired sound consultant's preposterous claim.

I ask each of the Commissioners, would you be satisfied living under those circumstances on a daily basis for many years to come? If Republic's application is approved, that is what you will be asking my family and our neighbors to do. Not only would it create an untenable situation for us, but it would also render our property worthless, as no one in their right mind would want to live where we do under a constant 5:30 AM to 6PM loud din.

GROUNDWATER POLLUTION:

Groundwater pollution is another issue: Republic Has a long history of groundwater pollution violations; in May of 2021 it agreed to a nearly ½ million dollar stipulated settlement with the San Francisco Regional Water Board of California for civil liability claims including possible water pollution from leakage at the bottom of its landfill in Richland, CA; instead of reporting within the mandatory 5 days, Republic took 145 days. The Board also noted that Republic had prior violations at its OX Mtn. landfill within the previous five years.

Recently, “On Monday, April 2, 2025 a court ruled in Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association's favor that Republic Services' Modern Landfill violated the federal Clean Water Act 419 times from July 2019 through April 2023. The landfill, located in York County, PA, generates approximately 200,000 gallons per day of leachate wastewater. The landfill is subject to a permit under the Clean Water Act that authorizes pollutants to be discharged into Kreutz Creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna River. Those discharges must strictly adhere to the pollution limitations of the permit, however, and the court found Republic Services violated those terms, subjecting it to strict liability under federal law.”<https://www.publicjustice.net/republic-services-modern-landfill-clean-water-act-violations/>

At Coffin Butte's proposed cell, even if best practices are followed, there is no guarantee that ground water won't be polluted, or that timely reporting will be done.

Once neighborhood well water is polluted, the only recourses left neighbors are litigation and then relocation.

POSSIBILITY OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE BEING BROUGHT TO THE SITE:

There is no guarantee of what Republic Services would like to bring into its expanded site if its application is approved. A good example of this is a site owned by Republic Services in Wayne County, Michigan. It was set to receive radioactive waste from New York in the fall of 2024, before towns sued the company, seeking to halt the disposal plan.

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/wayne-disposal-hazardous-waste-lawsuit-michigan-republic-services/728268/>

Some projects, even with the most stringent of imposed conditions, are just not conducive to acceptable outcomes. I believe that this proposed landfill expansion is one such project. In summary, all of the above will dramatically and adversely impact the character of the entire area as well as devalue our property and that of our neighbors. Area residents will pay dearly for many years into the future, just so Republic can squeeze out only a few more years of profit. Legally, approval of this permit will thus be in direct violation of Benton County's Ordinance 53.215 Section 1.

Accordingly, I urge the Commission to do what's right for the public, not what's good for Republic's bottom line, ... and thus deny the Conditional Use Permit.

Grant Carlin

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