

**From:** [Sue Powell](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Re: LU-24-027 Testimony  
**Date:** Sunday, April 27, 2025 9:32:23 PM

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I meant Saturday May 3.

On Apr 21, 2025, at 4:15 PM, Sue Powell <jabirusue@comcast.net> wrote:

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

Thank you,  
Susan L. Powell  
[jabirusue@comcast.net](mailto: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,

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

<Landfill 2.pdf>