From: Community Development, Benton County, Oregon

To: <u>Benton Public Comment</u>

Subject: LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Feedback

**Date:** Monday, April 28, 2025 4:57:28 PM

Subject of Testimony: Bloody Carcases Delivered to Landfill

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Written Testimony:

I strongly oppose the landfill expansion because of the impact the operation has on those of us who regularly travel on Hwy 99. We are all familiar with the accumulation of litter along the shoulder, the plastic draped in the trees and the frequent need to dodge materials flying out of uncovered loads. And then there are the special trips down Hwy 99 like the following:

On March 26th, 2025 around noon, my friend and I were traveling south on Hwy 99W, from Hwy 22 Junction to our home on Moss Rock Rd. Between Rickreall and Monmouth, I began noticing deposits on the road that looked like road-killed animals, ranging between the size of a rat to as large as a rabbit. These occurred every 50 - 200 yds on the road, with a trail of wet drips in between. At the stoplight in Monmouth, we caught up to a lorry-type truck (bigger than a pickup) that was leaking fluid from the covered cargo bed. As we proceeded south on Hwy 99W behind this truck, we witnessed splats of gore and a trail of blood escaping from the cargo. When the truck picked up speed south of Monmouth, a pink mist of blood began spraying out the back and covering our windshield. At this point, we pulled over to the side of the road to get out of the gorey discharge. After a couple of cars passed us, we continued south on Hwy 99W and could still see the truck leaking discharge ahead of us. My friend called 911 to report it. The truck turned on Coffin Butte Rd. and we were right behind it as it turned into the landfill. We had to wash chunks of gore and bloody spray off the front of our vehicle when we got home.

I've never once seen VLI or Republic staff doing litter patrol on the highway. The trucking companies clearly aren't taking responsibility for their mess. It falls on Benton Co work crews and volunteers to clean up after these corporations. Enough is enough. Stop the landfill expansion now!

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