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Subject: Oppose/Deny LU-24-027
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Dear Benton County Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly oppose Republic Services' Conditional use Permit application LU-24-027 to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill. Please deny this application.

I moved with my family to Corvallis 6 years ago, falling in love with the abundance of nature all around us. Probably like you, I felt so lucky to be living among the generations-old trees and watch the rushing flow of the Willamette River. We found a sweet little park in Philomath where little kids would watch for tadpoles along a bank of the river while older people floated in their innertubes. Our dog would leap in the river dodging the little kids while fetching a stick. I thought I must've done something really good in a past life to have lucked into living in such a treasured spot on our planet.

But just in the few years I've lived here, there is such a profound difference in our experience living here. It literally stinks here on most mornings these days! It doesn't matter the season or if the sun is shining -- the air stinks to the point of our staying inside closing all the windows. Then on my drive to Monmouth for weekly dog obedience classes I saw exactly what was causing the stench. I could smell the Coffin Butte landfill miles before I'd pass it on 99. The landfill scale seemed much larger than what our community would fill so I looked into how we in Benton County could all help limit the amount of our own garbage. Hah, it wouldn't have made much of a difference because I then found out that our county has accepted garbage from outside our own county, even as far as from a county in Washington. Whhhhhat???? And now Republic wants to expand and add further toxic plumes to the Benton County environment?

The amount of poisonous plumes and toxic leaching of our river and soil is increasing every day. The stench, once periodic, is now a weekly occurrence. The stench is a nagging warning to be heeded. Even our wineries are affected in that when Emerson was about to close on the sale of their winery, the buyer that day smelled the landfill stench. The buyers backed out of the sale. How many other property sales need to be adversely affected by the stench and other hidden poisonous implications of the landfill before we do something about it?

In January, the EPA Enforcement initiated an action against Coffin Butte Landfill. This is significant because of the possible implications of danger to our quality of living. Republic has not met their Burden Of Proof on how the dangers the landfill is causing to our environment. The expansion would be a gateway to continued expansions and their ability to ignore subpoenas. Please, Planning Commissioners, be the change you want to see in the healthy future of all the families, human and wildlife alike, and deny LU-24-027.

Thank you.

Darena Yee

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