

From: [Mae Yih](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Mary Howells](#)
Subject: public comment Coffin Butte Land use expansion
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Benton County Commission

4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis OR.

Public Comments April 28, 2025

Dear Commission Chair and Commissioners:

For the record, my name is Mae Yih, Oregon state senator, retired, my address is 34465 Yih Lane NE, Albany, Oregon.

I have testified before you on July 18, 2023 and I am testifying again to urge you to deny further expansion of Coffin Butte land use for burial of public waste but to encourage Republic Waste Disposal Service to consider new technologies for:

Recycling of plastic bags to hydrogen gas,

Storage of solar and wind energy, and

Converting waste to energy, such as being accomplished at a facility in Brooks, Oregon

This information is the result of an essay contest I have sponsored every year since 2009 for Albany high school senior students till last year. The purpose of the essay contest was to encourage the study of science and critical thinking. Essay topics have ranged from the uses of rare metals, energy independence, nuclear energy and many others.

In 2022, the essay contest topic was "A Plan for Sufficient Energy for the Nation as We Move Forward Replacing Fossil Fuel with Renewable & Other Sources." The new technologies recommended by Spencer Madsen,, the essay winner, could be useful for your consideration. I encouraged Spencer to present the conclusion of his essay to you, but due to a family vacation conflict he was unable to do so. I am now again presenting his research to you so that you can consider the new technologies and converting waste to energy as you make your policy decision.

Should you or your staff have questions, I would urge you to contact Spencer, or Dr. David Alman, Assistant director for Materials Engineering & Manufacturing at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Albany, who served as a judge of the essay contests.

Many thanks for the opportunity to testify again. Feel free to contact me if there is any questions.

Mae Yih

Oregon state senator, retired

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CC: Dr. David Alman, Assistant Director for Materials Engineering & Manufacturing, National

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