

From: [Community Development, Benton County, Oregon](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Feedback
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 1:57:07 PM

Subject of Testimony: Reject Expansion Proposal from Bad Actor Applicant

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Written Testimony:

Expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill carries large financial, human health and environmental risk. Most of what I can share will have been repeated by the more than 5,000 other public comments submitted on this topic, but I will summarize for leadership in a way that is very clear:

Benefits of expansion:

Approximately six additional years of waste disposal (that's about 6.6 million tons of additional waste)

Low to no changes in waste disposal costs to the public

Private profit

Costs of expansion:

Allowing an entity that fails to control methane emissions to expand operation and likely profit. These leaks are a local fire risk (cost to City/County), a local health risk, a state and global emissions problem.

Continued and increased (more waste= more pollution) air and water pollution at unknown levels into the future. This puts public health and the environment at risk. The "honor system" of compliance is not working at Coffin Butte and the company has no incentive to self limit damages.

Opportunity loss to use this land and encourage investment in improved waste management technology. If Lane County can do it, so can Benton County. We should support alternative permittees with a better waste model.

There is much much more to say but the rational decision is clear. It does not make any sense to permit a company to expand its current practice when that company has a history of noncompliance with basic safety standards. You will have been reminded by nearly all public comments that on one day, from one EPA visit 21 testing locations found and reported methane emissions more than 20 times the highest allowable limit. The prospective permittee is in no way a trusted or reliable land use steward. Waste disposal is a necessity. Yes we need waste disposal but not from this bad actor operator. Let Lane County's investment in state of the art facilities be a model that exists just next door!

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