

Testimony for Coffin Butte Landfill CUP Meetings 4/29/2025, 5/2/2025 and 5/6/2025.

Good evening, I'm Bill Gellatly, a ten-year resident of Corvallis, a retired engineering manager with over 45 years in high tech.

I am focused on the impact of microplastics in the landfill, and will shed technical light on PFAS. They are a class of fluorinated carbon molecules now better known as "forever chemicals." That name is a direct reference to the fact that Fluorine and Carbon create the strongest bond in the world of chemistry.

The best known of these chemicals are Teflon and Gore-Tex. Since 1938, more than 4,000 compounds have been created that contain PFAS. We recognize their properties for non-stick pans, for stain resistance in carpets and upholstery, and for great rain gear.

They are also important in the manufacture of integrated circuits and microprocessors. They play a crucial role in the photolithography process, in which intricate patterns are etched onto silicon wafers.

Those benefits do not come without drawbacks

The reason we should ALL be aware of PFAS is that they are very difficult to remove from wastewater AND that they do not break down to any inert form in the landfills, to say nothing of adding greatly to the need for process water in virtually all applications. PFAS are three to four orders of magnitude smaller than most microplastics and as a result, they are now being identified in the circulatory systems of human and animal populations.

Much has already been published about the use of PFAS for lotions and makeup. The CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry states "PFAS contamination has the potential to affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and older children" and goes on to say "PFAS Contamination could lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant, and could increase the risk of cancer." These two statements are very softly worded as has been a notable trend for the last 20 or more years of EPA guidelines that science suggests should be regulations.

Thanks to a FOIA request from March of 2023, we now know that 2022 test data from the City of Corvallis waste-water treatment plant shows that Coffin Butte leachate being received contains five or more variants of PFAS that far exceed the amounts in water received by Hillsboro or McMinnville treatment plants. This begs the question of why and when the City of Corvallis decided to stop accepting landfill leachate. Return of treatment water with residual PFAS is a risk to fish and all subsequent downstream users.

For these reasons and more, I am adamantly OPPOSED to Expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill.

Respectfully submitted,

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