

4/29/25
DATE RECEIVED: 4/29/25
FROM: Camille Hall
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Planning Commissioners and Chair Fowler,

My name is Camille Hall and I have lived at 7175 NW Mountain View Drive, Corvallis, 6 miles south of Coffin Butte Landfill since 1981.

I oppose LU-24-027, expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill.

First, I wish to testify to:

Benton County Code 53.215 (1) "seriously interferes with the character of the area":

The property in question today is a buffer zone, created as a condition of approval for earlier expansions of this landfill, to protect neighboring properties. Both Tampico Ridge and Adair Village are affected by this request.

The most immediate and direct impacts will be around Tampico Ridge. Developing the new landfill will require months of blasting and removing soil and rock from the north hillside, up to the ridge. In that process, Republic Services will "dewater" the hillside, diverting groundwater that feeds local wells. Blasting will create fissures in existing substrate, providing channels for leachate to seep from the new landfill onto neighboring property. This will destroy the livability, property values, wells, airspace and groundwater for property owners along Tampico Ridge. No one will want to buy this land for its intended rural residential, agricultural and forestry purposes.

On the east side of Hwy 99W, the existing landfill, without the expansion, is within 2.5 miles of Adair Village. Residents there already bear the burden of increased activity at the existing landfill. This expansion request will bring the landfill with its traffic and operational impact even closer, making it more visible from town and encroaching on the character, property values and intended use of Adair Village as a residential center.

With or without removal of the annual tonnage cap, an expansion will bring the landfill even closer to residences on both sides of the Highway. An expansion will increase Republic Services' ability to market landfill space to new and expanded customers, creating the demand for future expansions. At the same time, an expansion will impede the ability of rural residents, farmers and foresters to operate and sell their land. This expansion will directly benefit Republic Services at the expense of other local landowners.

In addition, this expansion, per

Benton County Code 53.215 (2) "places undue burden on public activities and infrastructure":

By opening a new working face across Coffin Butte Road from the existing landfill, road use will be dominated by cross-traffic from commercial trash trucks crossing Hwy 99W from Camp Adair Road, turning left across Coffin Butte Road, into the new dump. Heavy equipment and truck traffic will also move between the two dumps, making it dangerous and difficult for other traffic to travel on Coffin Butte Road.

I am particularly concerned about emergencies, whether wildfire, landfill fire, earthquake, or other disaster. In the 2022 Annual Report for Coffin Butte Landfill, Republic Services reports 128,000 commercial vehicles a year, approximately 350 commercial trucks a day, coming into and out of Coffin Butte landfill. This steady influx of trash haulers will be difficult if not impossible to stop during an emergency, impeding evacuation, blocking emergency vehicles and causing trucks to stack up along major evacuation routes. In effect, Republic Services proposes to make Coffin Butte Road unsuitable for public purposes without the formality of closing the road to public use.

This is not acceptable.

Thank you.