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To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Coffin Butte Public Testimony
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The Benton County Board of Commissioners MUST deny the Coffin Butte Expansion application from Republic Services. The list of reasons for denial include many concerns including impacts to groundwater particularly related to the toxic brew of leachate, air pollution and odor, documented methane exceedances, potential landfill fires, recent citations for worker health and safety violations, increased traffic and noise, and devaluation of surrounding property.

Republic has all to gain financially and argues to continue their control of how Benton County gets rid of their landfill garbage. This company has no incentive do the right thing and they have demonstrated time and again they will violate federal and state water and air quality regulations and severely limit the life span of this landfill by manipulating the County Commissioners to allow garbage from many other counties for a payout to the County. This payout to the County is a small percentage of what Republic has profited from having Coffin Butte under their control. This generalized list of all the violations and serious concerns for the expansion does not tell the full story. If the Commissioners read and listen objectively to the concerns of public, the EPA, and the State, including County staff, the Commissioners will not, in good conscience, vote to approve the expansion application.

If not for Republic's greed to make as much money as they can by bringing vast amounts of garbage from other counties, Coffin Butte would have been operational in its current location for decades. From what I have read, Benton County's portion of the garbage that goes to the landfill is a very small percentage of what goes into the landfill. The writing has been on the wall for years and yet, the Commissioners are actually considering allowing the expansion which will only multiply the pollution and problems at a faster rate while we continue to serve as the dumping ground for several counties. The right choice seems so obvious Deny the application.

We do not live near the landfill. The protest against the expansion is not just a problem for the property owners living near the landfill to fight. They are not alone. This affects all of us living in the state of Oregon and it definitely affects the communities and wildlife living downstream from where the leachate is dumped into the Willamette River. Our hearts are with the coalition who have been fighting the expansion for years.

Of course Republic wants to expand. I understand this is the only landfill they own in Oregon. It's far cheaper for them to expand than to acquire another area for a new landfill. The people and the environment must be given precedence over the 2nd largest waste mgt company in the US. Can you, the Commissioners, NOT see why to continue placating Republic Services is the WRONG decision? The only benefit the

Commissioners can claim is that it will bring in some revenue to the County. However, as one person explained very well in the Gazette Times, in terms of the budget, the County must look at not only the dollars Republic is paying, but the full costs to the County in terms of how much it costs to monitor and manage Republic and the landfill. And the rule of Risk vs. Reward definitely applies here.

We have many more thoughts about this, but we will end here. There should be enough here to justify why the landfill expansion should not be approved.

Thank you for reading our testimony. May you have the Strength and Courage to do the right thing!!

Sincerely,
Ken and Denise Robertson
Corvallis, OR