

**From:** [Liza Yeager](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose/Deny LU-24-027  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:12:42 PM

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Dear Benton County Planning Commissioners,

My name is Liza Yeager. I primarily live in Chicago these days, but I grew up at 37269 Helm Drive, in the Soap Creek Valley—that's the place I still think of as home.

I am writing because I strongly oppose Republic Services' Conditional Use Permit application LU-24-027 to expand the Coffin Butte landfill. I urge the Planning Commission to deny this application.

Growing up in the Soap Creek Valley, I knew that I lived in an incredibly special place. I knew that it was beautiful, and that the trees smelled good, and that I was lucky to hear coyotes howling at night. But it's only since I've moved away that I've come to appreciate something else about the place that I grew up: I always believed—without a doubt—that the soil was clean, that the air was healthy, and that the water that came out of the well on my family's property was healthy to drink.

Since I've lived in other places, in other states, I've learned just how lucky I was to take those things for granted. Where I live now, I assume that the ground is layered with toxins and waste. I don't trust the water. I know that when I'm walking around outside, I'm breathing in stuff that probably isn't good for me. I support local efforts to clean things up—but honestly, it feels like a lost cause. Like people have been so careless for so long that the problems are impossible to solve.

*Please*, don't let that happen in Benton County. We all deserve clean air and water. It's not too late to stop the Coffin Butte Landfill from doing irreparable long-term damage to the health of our entire community.

The proposed expansion would seriously interfere with the character of the surrounding area and impose an undue burden on public resources, in violation of Benton County Code 53.215 (1) and (2). Specifically, this expansion raises major concerns about:

- Air and water pollution threaten our local ecosystems and community health
- Traffic increases that pose safety risks on nearby roads and pathways
- Odor and noise issues that degrade quality of life for residents and visitors
- Negative impacts on wildlife, recreation, and property values
- Long-term climate and environmental consequences for future generations

The proposed expansion does nothing to align with *Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative*. This expansion undermines our shared goals for responsible environmental stewardship, prioritizing public health, and sustainable waste management.

I believe Benton County should invest in waste reduction, recycling, and circular economy solutions, not expanding landfills that perpetuate pollution and place a long-term burden on local communities!

Please reject LU-24-027. Thank you for your consideration and for protecting the health and future of Benton County.

Sincerely,

Liza Yeager

Chicago, IL, 60640