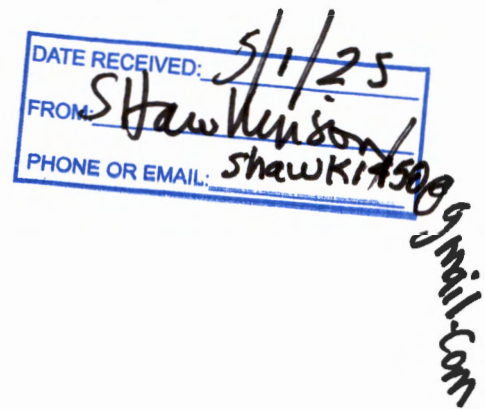


May 1, 2025

From: Stephanie Hawkinson
1450 NW Grant Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330
Shawk1450@gmail.com



To: Benton County Planning Commission

Re: Oppose/Deny Application LU-24-027

53.215 Criteria: ...(1.) ..."character of the area"

The proposed landfill expansion would seriously/definitely impact the character of the area. Because it has already impacted the "character of the area" does NOT mean that further expansion would just go unnoticed. Taking something that is quite unsightly and enlarging makes it even worse. It is NOT hidden, it is in full view. The "character of the area" was once completely bucolic and now has a massive dome of trash that is covered, but still in full view....the "elephant in the room" so to speak. How could enlarging it not make it worse?

I have lived in Corvallis for 47 years and seen the changes that have been made at Coffin Butte over the years. We have taken things to the landfill many, many times over the years. While teaching in Lebanon I took my fifth grade classes there on field trips so they would better understand the landfill, and where their trash was going. Those field trips included walking up on top of the site to look down into the deep pit where the trash was dumped, understanding what was happening with the leachate, and hearing about the electricity that was generated there and used. Interestingly, the "odor" was not strong and 5th graders enjoyed that field trip. It has grown from a user-friendly place to discard unwanted things to a behemoth....a giant mountain of trash that is fed by many large garbage trucks coming and going all day. While it is "our" landfill many people I know do not take things there anymore.

I attended the Tuesday evening Planning Commission meeting and I came away with some concerns. When Odor of the proposed landfill was addressed one board member and Winterbrook Consulting both responded by stating there is already a landfill there so Odor is already there. That is hopefully not how one would plan for any type of upcoming change/growth. We are looking at the possible impact of an uncapped amount of trash. And Winterbrook could not address traffic more thoroughly? If Benton County was looking at making the Corvallis Airport into a regional airport I would hope future planning/predictions would be addressed. I also have concerns about the groundwater/leachate and why it is not being addressed. Having the applicant provide that information seems not in the county's best interests. Addressing these potential problems prior to granting the permit does seem necessary.

I appreciate the time the Benton County Planning Commission is putting into this matter. It is important and will have a big impact on Benton County.

Stephanie Hawkinson