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To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion
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Sent on behalf of Doug Sherwood, Operations Superintendent, Table Mountain Forestry
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To Whom It May Concern:

Oregon's landfills are renowned for their advanced waste handling methods, serving as a crucial component of our waste management system. These facilities are meticulously designed to safeguard the environment by securely containing waste and capturing the offsets generated during decomposition. This collaborative approach ensures that everyone involved contributes to the responsible disposal of non-recyclable items, benefiting Oregonians as a whole.

However, the United States faces a critical shortage of outlets for recycling, reuse, and waste reduction. Consequently, landfills play a vital role in securely storing discarded waste items.

It is disheartening to observe the societal mindset that has allowed us to adopt a "not in my backyard" attitude. This attitude has led to the unfortunate practice of shipping waste over long distances to remote "rural" sites for disposal. This practice merely shifts waste from one location in Oregon to another, resulting in the same offsets as a landfill situated in Benton County. Is this truly an acceptable solution?

Benton County's climate goals demand a comprehensive approach to waste management. Considering the significant amount of CO2 produced during the transportation of this material to Eastern Oregon, it is crucial to assess whether this action truly aligns with Benton County's climate objectives. Instead of merely shifting offsets from one county to another, we must ensure that our actions truly benefit all Oregonians.

The closure of a landfill raises concerns about the potential need for the approval of transfer stations to handle bulked-up discarded waste. These facilities continue to pose challenges such as noise, odor, bird issues, and emissions, resulting in the same negative complaints that have plagued landfills in the past. Therefore, we must carefully

consider the long-term implications of our decisions and ensure that we are taking the most effective steps to address waste management concerns.

Benton County's ongoing expansion of housing projects inevitably leads to an increase in waste generation. This raises the question of where this additional waste will be disposed of. It is essential to strike a balance between accommodating growth and maintaining sustainable waste management practices.

If the landfill isn't located where it currently is and is closed, all the waste it accepts will now have to be transported through Portland. This will undoubtedly add to the already congested freeways, resulting in increased emissions from trucks dealing with stop-and-go traffic.

For most companies that use the landfill, they can send multiple loads of waste daily. When these companies are forced to ship waste to regional landfills on I-84, multiple trucks will be required to transport the waste. These regional companies will now need three trucks to haul what one truck currently hauls daily, and all these trucks will still travel through Benton County.

This process and issue are likely to attract negative attention, so why do 135-300 opponents potentially have the power to influence over 500,000 solid waste and recycling ratepayers? These ratepayers will pay significantly higher fees to ship their waste over long distances, which will result in increased emissions that negatively impact our environment.

There are several other scenarios that could lead to more environmental impacts if the landfill doesn't exist. Remember, shifting waste from one community to another doesn't truly improve environmental consequences; it merely exacerbates them.

This is a difficult decision, but it's crucial to make the hard choice that may not be popular with a few individuals versus a choice that affects 500,000 Oregonians. When that choice is made, remember that you have the opportunity to shape the future of an environmentally sound landfill.

I urge you all to support the landfill's continued operation. Listen to the opponents' concerns, and then work along with regulatory agencies, staff and Republic Services, so you all can create an even more advanced and state-of-the-art landfill that can handle waste until new markets emerge to help us reduce the amount of waste we place in landfills.

