

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Oppose/Deny LU-24-027
Date: Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:48:01 AM

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Dear Benton County Planning Commissioners,

My name is Jim Scheppke and I live in South Salem.

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.

I am a member of 350 Salem OR which worked with Beyond Toxics and the Energy Justice Network and other allies to help effect the closure of the Reworld incinerator in Brooks just north of Salem at the end of last December. For 38 years the incinerator emitted millions of tons of CO2 in addition to toxic emissions that poisoned the town of Brooks, made up mostly of low income Latinx working families. We now have results from moss studies conducted by the US Forest Service that prove this. For 38 years Brooks was a sacrifice zone so that a multinational company based in New Jersey could profit at their expense.

Now that the incinerator is closed most of Salem's solid waste is being trucked to the Coffin Butte landfill. We don't feel good about this. We have eliminated one sacrifice zone in Brooks, but our garbage is contributing to another sacrifice zone in Benton County. 350 Salem OR believes that we need to pursue aggressive Zero Waste strategies in Salem to dramatically reduce our waste, and we also need to dispose of what is left in a more environmentally responsible way, such as taking it by rail to a landfill in Eastern Oregon that is in a desert climate far away from vulnerable populations.

I should mention that Salem is also the recipient of millions of gallons of toxic leachate from the Coffin Butte landfill. In 2024 over 21 million gallons were trucked to Salem where it was dumped into our sewer system in South Salem and where it traveled through our sewer pipes all the way to the Willow Lake Treatment Facility north of Salem — a facility that is not designed to treat toxic leachate — where it ended up in the Willamette River. Salem was paid over \$840,000 to pollute the Willamette River which we find to be unconscionable. If the Coffin Butte landfill was expanded there would be even more toxic leachate coming to Salem and polluting the river.

For these reasons and many others you must reject LU-24-027. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Scheppke, 1840 E. Nob Hill SE, Salem