

**From:** [Community Development, Benton County, Oregon](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Feedback  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:02:14 PM

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Subject of Testimony: Stop the landfill expansion

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Written Testimony:

I strongly oppose this expansion due to the serious negative impacts it will have on our environment, public health, and quality of life.

First and foremost, expanding the landfill poses a significant risk to groundwater quality. Even with modern liners and containment systems, no landfill is completely fail-safe. Over time, toxic leachate can and often does seep into the groundwater, contaminating the very resource we rely on for drinking water, irrigation, and natural ecosystems. Once our groundwater is polluted, the damage is extremely difficult—and costly—to reverse.

Secondly, this expansion will lead to increased air pollution. Decomposing waste emits harmful gases such as methane, a potent greenhouse gas, as well as volatile organic compounds and foul odors that affect the health of nearby residents. These emissions contribute to climate change and can cause respiratory issues, especially in children and seniors.

Another serious concern is the increase in traffic and noise. Expanding the landfill would mean more trucks hauling garbage from outside our community. This will place a greater burden on our local roads, increase the risk of accidents, and contribute to noise pollution and wear and tear on infrastructure—all while importing waste that we did not generate.

If this landfill were used only for waste generated within our area, it would last significantly longer and serve its intended purpose more responsibly. Importing trash from other regions only accelerates the filling of the site and forces our community to bear the burden of others' waste problems.

In conclusion, this expansion prioritizes short-term convenience and profit over long-term public and environmental health. I urge you to listen to the concerns of the residents you serve and deny the proposed landfill expansion. Thank you for your time and consideration

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