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To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Opposition to Republic Services expansion of Coffin Butte
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:23:26 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in opposition to Republic Services application to expand Coffin Butte.

The landfill is more than adequate for the waste of Benton County residents. It doesn't seem right that 90% of the trash (including more than half of Marion County's municipal waste!) hauled to Coffin Butte comes from counties other than Benton County. 50 years ago the landfill was created for 5 counties. My understanding is it now takes garbage from SW Washington and 2 dozen counties. Perhaps Republic Services should build dumps in those counties - why would Benton County bear the brunt of others garbage? The fact that more waste equals more revenue for Republic Services is troubling for those of us in the area bearing the environmental and ecological impacts of that waste.

With the known harm of PFAs and methane I don't want any more garbage coming into Benton County's dump than is absolutely necessary. The 2022 EPA inspection reported 21 readings of methane concentrations exceeding 10,000 (!) parts per million. The federal limit for this is 500 parts per million. Republic Services has not shown adequate concern or action in addressing the methane and leachates at the landfill.

Lastly, Republic Services has not been a partner in good faith, as evidenced by the EPA report, them leaving things out of their annual report, and not being upfront about charges when people bring items to the landfill. Coupled with low enforcement and monitoring of land use and environmental factors by Benton County, DEQ and EPA, any new permits given to Republic Services have a high chance of not following the law or being a good neighbor. When someone tells you who they are, believe them! Republic Services continues to stonewall and obfuscate information and doesn't take enough (any) responsibility for environmental shortcomings at Coffin Butte under their watch. It's also concerning that the franchise agreement gives the county \$1 million more per year if the landfill expansion is approved by 2024. Of course the county would want that money and the promise of these funds may sway the county's decision.

The Coffin Butte expansion is NOT necessary at this time and I urge you to vote no.

Emily Finnan
Benton County resident