

**From:** [Rick Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Republic's Application  
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**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Enrique Hernandez  
633 NE Fogarty St Newport Or  
5/6/2025

Commissioners,

My name is Enrique Hernandez, and I am an employee of Thompson's Sanitary Service in Newport, Oregon. As a member of the waste industry, I am in a unique position to have a good understanding of how the closure of Coffin Butte landfill will impact my customers. I encourage you to grant Republic's application for expansion. Below are some of the reasons I support the expansion:

Choose some of these, or expand on them if you wish...

- The landfill is an essential resource in our ability to be responsible for our own waste
- Hauling the waste to a landfill further away doesn't fix the problem, it just makes people in another part of Oregon deal with our trash
- The trash we are talking about is our trash. It's yours, it's mine, it's all of ours together, and we should be the ones to deal with it responsibly
- Republic has done an excellent job managing the landfill
- DEQ has environmental oversight regarding the operations at Coffin Butte, so the landfill is already very highly regulated, which greatly limits any environmental impacts
- Closing the landfill is not a way to responsibly manage our waste stream. We should deal with our own trash in the right way, and Republic is doing that
- Collection customers will bear the burden of increased prices to cover increased hauling costs
- Increased collection rates will have a significant impact on small businesses in my community
- Hauling trash to another part of Oregon increases greenhouse gas output from the trucks that haul it, which pollutes the environment we are trying to protect
- "Not in my backyard" is not an acceptable solution to managing the waste stream

Thank you for your attention. I strongly encourage you to vote to expand.

Enrique Hernandez

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