

**From:** [Community Development, Benton County, Oregon](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Feedback  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 8:58:21 AM

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Subject of Testimony: character

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Written Testimony:

Let's talk about character. Who and what determines the character of a community, of a landscape? There are geologic features and forces, and there are residents. The lives around the landfill include people, animals, birds, trees, plants, and the billions of microscopic critters in the soil, who feed all the others. All of them depend on each other for their survival. What happens if one of them accumulates the waste from 1/3 of the entire state? You get flocks of birds coming for exposed food scraps and then going to local berry farms for dessert, and eating up farmers' thin profit margins. You get what local hunters call "dump deer," with diseased livers. You get days when the local humans won't go outside because of the stench. And the geologic forces that took millennia to shape the local hills? Suddenly, human forces overtake them, to raise the ugliest, smelliest hill so high that it overshadows the rest of the rural landscape. Landowners can't sell because of the dump. People don't want to move there because of the dump. The dump becomes the character of the place.

To approve this permit would be a death sentence on the character of the place.

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