

From: [Community Development, Benton County, Oregon](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Feedback
Date: Sunday, May 18, 2025 5:46:38 PM

Subject of Testimony: Coffin Butte

Full Name: David Gifford

Email: dbgIndependent@gmail.com

Street Address: 2055 NW ELDER ST, Corvallis, 97330

Written Testimony:

Benton County Community Development
4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333-1139

We are writing on behalf of the Advocacy Committee of the Mid-Valley Bicycle Club to oppose the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. Founded in 1974, the Mid-Valley Bicycle Club (MVBC) is a 400+ member non-profit cycling club centered in Corvallis, Oregon. The club hosts weekly rides, multi-day tours, and our annual Covered Bridge Bicycle Tour, which draws hundreds of riders from across the region. The MVBC Advocacy Committee works with our city, county, and state agencies to help assure safe riding conditions on all of our roads and bike paths.

From a cycling perspective, the Coffin Butte Landfill complicates everything in the northern part of Benton County. Methane emissions, which far exceed EPA limits, already make outdoor activities problematic. The dump also adds an estimated 128,000 vehicle trips per year to the roads, especially Highway 99, Highway 20, and Independence Highway. These are not quiet, unobtrusive vehicles, they are massive leachate trucks, tractor trailers, and dump trucks that make bicycling more dangerous.

Furthermore, Coffin Butte Road is the only east-west crossing of Highway 99 for a ten-mile stretch. The proposed landfill expansion would effectively close Coffin Butte Road to cyclists for 3,000 feet due to internal truck traffic. Cyclists wishing to cross Highway 99 to access Buena Vista or Airlie would have fewer choices. This would increase the number of dangerous highway crossings at roads to the north and south.

Cycling draws many visitors to the Willamette Valley, and our club works hard to promote the region as a destination. In addition to a long list of environmental threats that will affect Benton County residents for generations to come, an expanded landfill will make Benton County significantly less safe, accessible, and attractive to cyclists.

Advocacy Committee of the Mid-Valley Bicycle Club

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