

From: [Community Development, Benton County, Oregon](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Feedback
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 8:35:06 PM

Subject of Testimony: Oppose/Deny LU-24-027

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Written Testimony:

I am writing to express my opposition to the expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. The landfill currently leaches harmful chemicals into groundwater (e.g., heavy metals, carcinogenic industrial solvents, and the “forever chemicals” also known as PFAS) that will eventually migrate into the Willamette River, as well as venting air pollutants (e.g., methane, particulate matter, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and sulfides) into the surrounding airshed. The EPA found explosive amounts of methane leaking from Coffin Butte in 2022 and in satellite flyovers in 2023, found some of the largest methane plumes in the Pacific Northwest emerging from the Coffin Butte Landfill. In addition, toxic ash containing heavy metals and dioxin is being trucked to the Coffin Butte Landfill which is used daily to cover new garbage. The toxic ash can then enter the landfill’s leachate and if not properly applied, becomes airborne, adding to the air pollution of the Coffin Butte Landfill airshed.

It is also very concerning that the Coffin Butte Landfill currently imports 30% of all garbage generated in the state of Oregon into Benton County. This only increases the probability of polluting the Willamette River and surrounding airshed. Other options to managing this waste should be explored rather than expanding the landfill. Denying an expansion to Coffin Butte Landfill will not impact garbage services for county residents. The public will still have garbage collection services, and Benton County will continue to receive a franchise fee.

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