

From: [Community Development, Benton County, Oregon](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Feedback
Date: Sunday, May 25, 2025 2:18:34 PM

Subject of Testimony: Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion: Do not allow this to happen

Full Name: Lyn Larson

Email: llarson@peak.org

Street Address: 716 NW 14th St

Written Testimony:

Commissioners,

I'm disturbed by what I've learned about how Coffin Butte is managed and (mal)functioning. I'm a retired editor at CH2M HILL Engineering, which has done work at the landfill in the past, so I'm familiar with the processes involved. However, I had no idea how much it was leaking, the fact that leachate is going directly to our water/wastewater treatment plant, and that sludge that contains toxics continues to be sprayed on agricultural land. The landfill was started here many years ago in a most inappropriate site, both geologically and environmentally...in fractured bedrock in a soggy valley! Let's not continue compounding this big problem. DO NOT expand it, and hold Republic's feet to the fire to maintain the current pile much more stringently. Even if garbage rates go up! People need to pay for the garbage they thoughtlessly generate, but our systems need to wake up too and stop generating so much packaging (i.e., garbage) in the first place. Republic could lead the charge on demanding stricter rules through NATIONWIDE legislation, such as those in Europe that REQUIRE companies to take back their waste and/or stop generating it in the first place. if not now, when?!

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