

**From:** [Joel Geier](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** LU-24-027: New evidence re: need to regulate methane and visual impacts of Coffin Butte landfill  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 3:07:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [Let's clear the air\\_Big win on METHANE for Benton County2.pdf](#)

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Dear Chair Fowler and Members of the Planning Commission:

Please consider the attached PDF, "Let's clear the air\_Big win on METHANE for Benton County2.pdf" as new evidence regarding:

- (1) Recognition by the State of Oregon of the need for special regulation of Coffin Butte Landfill, due to its egregious track record on methane emissions, and
- (2) An eyewitness statement regarding the visual impacts of Coffin Butte Landfill, from the State Senator for the district within which the landfill is sited.

Regarding the first point, this document shares news that Oregon Governor Tina Kotek has signed legislation that singles out Coffin Butte Landfill in a mandate for increased monitoring of methane, using technologies that are currently available but which the Applicant has not utilized voluntarily.

The second point gives further evidence of how the landfill appears to an objective passerby:

*"Driving through the countryside, the mountain of waste is impossible to miss because it towers above the fields and trees that surround it."*

Previous testimony has pointed out the Applicant's record of failure regarding conditions of approval for past Conditional Use Permits, due to the inadequacy and indeed the impossibility of screening such an enormous blight on the landscape.

Previous testimony has also pointed out that Benton County has failed to enforce past conditions of approval. In response your own questions to County staff during the ongoing hearing, the county's Planning Director acknowledged that Benton County has no plans for addressing this problem, noting that monitoring a complex site such as Coffin Butte Landfill is beyond the capacity of county inspectors.

This new evidence gives you further reason to DENY LU-24-027.

Thank you for your diligence in considering this and other testimony from the public.

Yours sincerely,  
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## Breaking News: A big win on methane!

*(Pro Tip: Keep reading for more information about how the transportation package will impact our district, especially South Corvallis and North Albany; an update on our funding requests AND a brief introduction to some of the folks who visited the Capitol this session!)*

**Just moments ago, Governor Tina Kotek signed SB 726.** I introduced this bill as one of my top priorities this session because the issue of monitoring and mitigating methane emission is critical to an overwhelming number of my constituents.

Coffin Butte landfill is located on Highway 99, just outside of Adair Village. The facility receives approximately 2500 TONS of waste each day from two dozen Oregon counties. Driving through the countryside, the mountain of waste is impossible to miss because it towers above the fields and trees that surround it.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, at least 28 times more powerful than carbon and contributes significantly to trapping heat within our atmosphere.



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[Municipal solid waste landfills](#) are the third largest source of human generated methane emissions in the United States. We often talk about how our vehicles contribute to a warming planet. We don't speak nearly as often about the impact our waste generation has on climate change. According to the EPA, the methane emissions generated by US landfills in 2022 were equal to the emission of 24 million gas powered cars driven for an entire year. That's a lot of methane!

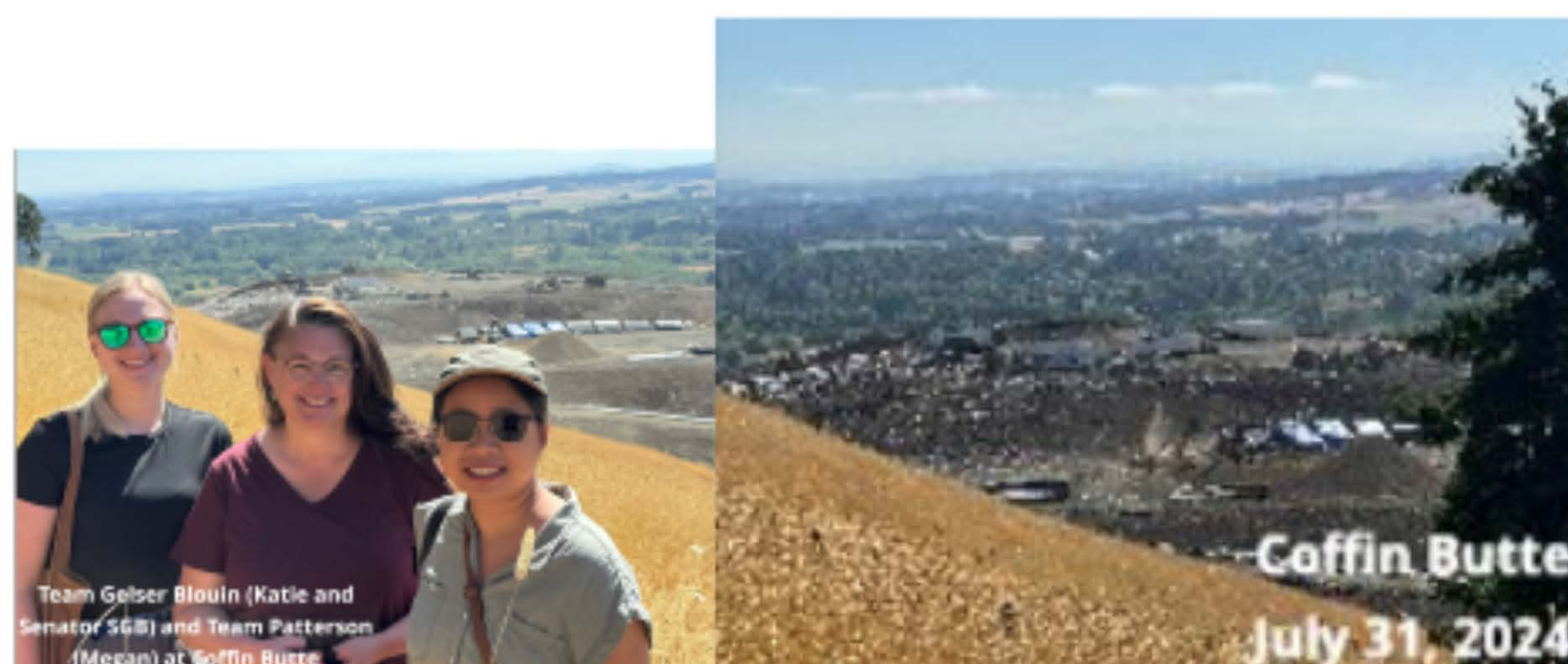
Mitigating methane leakage is important, and doing it well requires accurate information about how much methane is leaking, when it is leaking and where it is leaking from. Currently, monitoring is inefficient. It is accomplished by a single human walking the face of the landfill with a handheld monitor in a gridlike pattern. When I first learned of this, I thought about my grandfather walking beaches and parks with his metal detector, looking for whatever trinkets had been left behind. However, a landfill isn't a beach or a park. It is steep and treacherous and there are significant areas that aren't accessible by a human. This leaves significant portions of the landfill unmonitored.



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**SB 726** will require Coffin Butte Landfill to begin using advanced monitoring technology to monitor methane beginning in 2027. Many people assume this will be in the form of something called a “sniffer drone.” However, the bill is more expansive. It will allow a variety of advanced technology types that will allow more accurate and complete examination of the site. This type of advanced technology is already deployed in other parts of the country and I’m so glad that it will soon be deployed in our community.

Better data means better mitigation—and that’s important. Mitigating methane is critical not just for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, also for the protection of the health and well-being of those living, working and farming near the landfill.





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[Representative Sarah Finger-McDonald \(Corvallis\)](#) and [Senator Janeen Sollman \(Hillsboro\)](#), [Beyond Toxics](#) and countless dedicated local advocates who taught me about the importance of this issue and fiercely advocated for it. My hope is that implementation of SB 726 will allow Benton County to lead the way to effective methane mitigation in Oregon.

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**Transportation Package:  
(With a special focus on South Corvallis and North Albany)**

You've probably started to hear about the Transportation Package we will vote on prior to the end of session. About once each decade, the Legislature works to prioritize funding for key projects and maintenance statewide. For instance, the 2015 Transportation Package brought real benefits to our district, including improvements at Granger and Independence between Corvallis and Albany and the Van Buren Bridge in Corvallis.

This session, our package is focused on our aging infrastructure. We have roads, streets and highways statewide in desperate need of repair. Our bridges