

From: [Debra Higbee](#)
To: [WYSE Nancy](#)
Cc: [SHEPHERD Gabe](#); [MALONE Patrick](#); [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Revised Letter on Waste Reduction
Date: Friday, June 27, 2025 5:52:41 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-3rmzx0nc.png](#)
[Benton County Commissioners Letter #2 on Waste Reduction.pdf](#)

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Thank you Commissioner Wyse, for the clarification. Please disregard the previous letter. We are submitting a revised letter that is focused on information for you and the Benton County Commissioners to review and consider.

If the Coffin Butte expansion application decision does get appealed, we will consider submitting a document during the public hearing process.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Debra



Debra Higbee *she/her/hers*
Chair, Conservation Committee
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club
Cell: 541-554-6979
ConservationCommittee@oregon.sierraclub.org
SierraClub.org/Oregon

On Mon, Jun 23, 2025 at 5:20 PM WYSE Nancy <nancy.wyse@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Hi Debra,

Thank you for reaching out to us.

Just a heads up- any information that is directed at the potential expansion of the landfill should be sent to the planning commission as the record is still open until the end of the month. If the decision gets appealed to the board of commissioners, we legally have to declare any ex parte communications for the record (ie information received about the decision outside of the land use hearing process). If the decision does get appealed, you can resubmit the documents to us during the public hearing process.

Of course, any information that isn't directly related to the expansion application we can review and consider. Admittedly, we have limited control over the landfill as we are not the owners or operators. I always recommend sending recommendations to Republic Services as well.

Also, if you are interested in our Sustainable Materials Management Plan task force work you can find out more here:

[Regional Sustainable Materials Management Plan \(SMMP\) Task Force - Benton County Board of Commissioners, Oregon](#)

Take care,



Nancy V. Wyse *(She/hers)*
Commissioner, Chair

Office: 541-766-6754 | Cell: 541-760-6067

Email: nancy.wyse@bentoncountyor.gov

Address: 4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis

www.bentoncountyor.gov

From: Debra Higbee <dwhigbes@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 3:10 PM

To: WYSE Nancy <nancy.wyse@bentoncountyor.gov>; SHEPHERD Gabe <gabe.shepherd@bentoncountyor.gov>; MALONE Patrick <Pat.Malone@bentoncountyor.gov>

Cc: Benton Public Comment <PublicComment@bentoncountyor.gov>

Subject: A Letter about Coffin Butte from Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners Shepherd, Wise, and Malone,

Please find attached a letter from the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club referencing a

recent article about the Coffin Butte landfill, [Where the Garbage Goes](#) from High Country News, and a few ideas that we would like to pass along to you.

We appreciate this opportunity, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Debra



Debra Higbee *she/her/hers*
Chair, Conservation Committee
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SierraClub.org/Oregon



June 27, 2025

Benton County Commissioners
4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333

Submitted via email

Dear Commissioners Malone, Shepherd, and Wyse,

On behalf of the 58,000 members and supporters of the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, we are writing about the Coffin Butte landfill given its environmental concerns that reach state-wide. This is information for you to review and consider, which is not directly related to the expansion application. We recommend important ways to cut back on waste that is sent to the landfill, such as: a Zero-Waste Plan, Organics Program, Intake Reduction Measures and Fees, and Continuous Emissions Monitoring.

1. **Zero Waste Plan.** To extend the life of Benton County's landfill, we recommend you prepare a zero waste plan (see [Eight Steps on the Path to Zero Waste](#)) that includes values and a timeline with population and employment trends for source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.¹
2. **Organics Program.** More than half of the waste sent to the landfill is organic.² This includes food waste, wood, paper, and textiles. To extend the life of the Coffin Butte landfill an expanded community and business recycling and composting programs is essential.
3. **Intake Reduction Measures & Fees.** Work with Republic Services to ideate and implement intake-reduction measures across the Coffin Butte watershed, and/or charge significant landfill fees to discourage out-of-area waste flowing there, which can then be used to help fund new recycling and composting programs.

¹ Eight Steps on the Path to Zero Waste for Communities, Businesses, and Institutions
<https://zerowasteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ZWUSA-8-Steps-on-the-Path-to-Zero-Waste.pdf>

² Regional Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) Task Force
<https://boc.bentoncountyor.gov/smmp-task-force/>; Solid Waste in Benton County FAQ
https://cd.bentoncountyor.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/BC_SW-FAQ_draft7_June26.pdf

4. **Continuous Emission Monitoring.** Support the state efforts to apply more stringent oversight to the landfill, especially in regards to its landfill gas emissions.

We urge you to use the powers at your disposal. For example, “Benton County has ordinances that govern solid waste management within its jurisdiction, including regulations on waste collection, recycling, and disposal.”³ In regards to the Coffin Butte landfill, this may include revising or drafting new solid waste ordinances and initiating action-oriented dialogues with Republic Services, to address these issues for the sake of our common environment. For helpful, detailed information, please review the [Sierra Club’s Zero Waste Policy](#).⁴

Please consider these recommendations for minimizing the landfill’s environmental impact, to conserving resources, and for creating economic and social benefits. Benton County’s efforts in reducing, reusing, and recycling will reduce landfill waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and the need to extract and process new materials. This approach benefits public health and promotes a circular economy, potentially creating jobs and strengthening local communities.

Signed,



Damon Motz-Storey
Oregon Chapter Director, Sierra Club

cc: Bailey Payne, Solid Waste and Water Quality Program Coordinator
publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov

³ Solid Waste in Benton County FAQ
https://cd.bentoncountyor.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/BC_SW-FAQ_draft7_June26.pdf

⁴ The Sierra Club’s Zero Waste Policy
<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/Sierra%20Club%20Zero%20Waste%20Policy%20December%202019.pdf>