

From: [Bruce Cowger](#)
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Subject: LU-24-027: Alerting the Planning Commissioners of key public testimonies
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Dear Chair Fowler and Members of the Benton County Planning Commission:

First, thank you for your care and time spent obtaining public testimony in the matter of Republic's CUP. I found the following three testimonies particularly compelling and wanted to bring them to your attention:

#1714, by Jeff Kleinman:

- that Republic's request is to build a new landfill, rather than expand the existing landfill
- that Republic has failed to prove the proposed expansion would not significantly interfere with the use and character of adjacent areas
- that Benton County commitments since the 1970s to close and cap the Coffin Butte landfill have yet to be upheld
- that Republic's expansion request will eliminate entirely the current buffer between the landfill and nearby residences

#1722, by Dr Shelley Su, a PhD toxicologist:

- that methane emission from the landfill exceeds explosive levels, that these emissions have caused the EPA to designate the site a "super-emitter", and that Republic continues to substantially under-report methane emissions from Coffin Butte
- that PFAS chemicals are being expelled from the landfill not only through millions of gallons of leachate but also through aerosols carried out on its methane / CO2 plume (p 26)
- that Benton County's goal to be a net-zero carbon emitter by 2050 is essentially meaningless if Republic is allowed to continue to increase its methane emissions

#1741 by Kevin Kenaga:

- that of the 7 days in the last 5 years for which satellite imagery of Coffin Butte landfill is available, the area of exposed refuse exceeded 1 acre on all but one day.

Again, your time and judgment in this important matter are greatly appreciated!!

Cheers,
Bruce Cowger
Benton County resident since 1985



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