

**From:** [Community Development, Benton County, Oregon](#)  
**To:** [Benton Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** LU-24-027 Coffin Butte Proposed Expansion Written Feedback  
**Date:** Sunday, June 29, 2025 6:40:43 PM

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Subject of Testimony: LU-24-027

Full Name: Nathan Johnson

Email: natojohnson@me.com

Street Address: 6910 SW Plymouth Dr, Corvallis, OR, 97333

Written Testimony:

The Planning Commission should deny Republic Services' request to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

I'm writing as a concerned citizen, a farmer who grows food to feed my local community, and a conservationist serving the interests of future generations.

The risks of expansion far outweigh the benefits here in Benton County. The pollutants in the leachate from the existing landfill are more dangerous than was previously known. The effects of PFAS are known to be deadly, extremely persistent in environments where high levels are detected, and incredibly expensive to mitigate. The risks to aquifers and soils due to contamination by concentrated wastes is unacceptable. Once an aquifer becomes contaminated, the concentrated toxins disperse along with the harms. We can't proceed as if we don't know what's at stake. The existing landfill alone will likely present us with grim and costly difficulties in the decades to come.

You represent the interests of all current and future citizens of Benton County, and are entrusted to protect our health and safety.

I'm told the great bulk of the material already interred at Coffin Butte was sourced from outside Benton County. Expansion would unjustly continue the sad legacy of sacrificing local people, lands, and waters only to enrich an irresponsible corporation's shareholders and allow other towns and cities to shirk the responsibility to safely dispose of their own waste.

When I toured the Rock Creek watershed several years ago, I was deeply impressed by the foresight of visionary public servants alive more than 100 years ago. They recognized their duty to safeguard the common good. It's a home-grown example of responsible governance I'll always admire. They made an important decision and contributed to the quality of life we enjoy today, and you can do the same.

Deny LU-24-027, stand up for your neighbors, and do your part to create a better future.

Thank you for your attention to this,

Nate Johnson

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