

Benton County Planning Commission
c/o Community Development Dept.
4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 9733

DATE RECEIVED: 7/8/25

FROM: Tremaine + Gail Arkley

PHONE OR EMAIL: _____

July 6, 2025

Re: LU-24-027 application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill

Dear Chair Fowler, Vice-chair Hamann and members of the Benton County Planning Commission,

My wife Gail and I live on 24 acres in Polk County. 15 of those acres are a fruit and vegetable farm, Arkley Farm, and we have owned this property since 1975. My farmland is zoned EFU, and has Class 1 soil, i.e. the best (and to keep it that way I have always farmed organically; no chemical inputs, no sprays).

My farm is in Independence - about 2 miles north of the Buena Vista Ferry, if you know where that is. If you don't: we're a little over 7.5 miles *as the crow flies* from Republic Service's Coffin Butte Landfill (over 10 miles by road).

I keep hearing that Republic Services' odor consultant claims it is highly unlikely that anyone would smell the dump from such a distance.

Well I am writing to tell you for a fact I can smell the stench from here, over 7 miles away. And I know it is dump stench I am smelling, because I know what the dump smells like up close whenever I drive by it - and that is definitely what I smell here on my farm at times. There is a dairy a few miles Southwest of us that we sometimes smell too, but there is no comparison. A dairy just smells like cows and manure... whereas the dump stench is indescribably bad.

We used to smell it only intermittently, but lately we have been smelling it more often.

At times, the stench is very strong at our farm. It's so strong at times that we are afraid to go out and plant vegetables in our raised beds, or do our harvesting, or go out and mow, for fear of what's in that stench mixed with the air we are breathing. How many toxins are we absorbing through our skin? The smell even gets into our clothing and hair. What is coating our fruits and vegetables? We don't know, but the more we learn about what all is in the landfill gas that leaks out of the Coffin Butte dump, the greater is our fear. We are concerned on behalf of the people who work for us too. They should not be subject to these unknowns either.

This is an undue burden and definitely interferes with our farming operation. It is a problem that is bad enough with the dump as it exists already, but it will only get worse if you allow this landfill to expand. Please do not let that happen.

Please deny LU-24-027.

Sincerely,

Tremaine and Gail Arkley
9775 Hultman Rd
Independence, OR 97351