July 7, 2025

Angela Krueger Ryan Wilson 28903 Tampico Road Corvallis, Oregon 97330



To: Benton County Planning Commission

RE: Opposition to LU-24-027 Land Use Application

Dear Commissioners,

We respectfully urge you to deny the proposed landfill expansion application LU-24-027. Our family lives on and operates a cattle ranch (dba Krueger West Cattle Company LLC). We graze cows on Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land at 28903 Tampico Road, just south of the proposed landfill expansion site.

Currently, the existing landfill operation north of Coffin Butte Road seriously interferes with the use of our property and threatens the health of our livestock and the viability of our business, primarily due to trash blowing onto our grazing land, and through the frequent and persistent odors from the dump. The threat of groundwater becoming contaminated through leaks from the landfill is ever present. We water our cows almost exclusively from an under-ground spring and contamination could be extremely detrimental to our livestock's health.

The proposed expansion parcel will bring both these impacts much closer to our farm operation and therefore the proposed expansion cannot meet the conditional use review criteria. The proposed landfill expansion will seriously interfere with uses on our adjacent property (BCC 53.215(1).

Cattle have been a part of my (Angela) life since I was in the third grade. As I was growing up showing cows in 4-H I decided that I wanted to have my own beef herd. Raising cattle on a property such as the one we live on now is literally a dream come true.

On our property we are continuously working to return the land back to its historic state by eradicating non-native vegetation, and encouraging the growth of oak trees and native plants. We use cattle to rotationally graze the pastures year-round. Since moving here, we have increased our herd to just shy of 30 cows. Our herd consists of mainly Purebred Herefords with some crossbred calves and two dairy heifers. Some

of the cattle we own now have genetic ties to my very first Hereford cow. These cows are not just cows to us this is a legacy we are creating.

Our steers and heifers raised for meat are born to mother cows on our land. They are raised their entire life on our pastures. We mainly sell beef in quarters, halves, and wholes to families in Benton and surrounding counties. In recent years we have started selling calves as 4-H steers and replacement heifers to other Oregon farmers.

Raising a beef herd is more than just an investment of money it is an investment of time and a lifestyle many would not be willing to participate in. We have spent the last 8 years building this herd from the ground up. Endless hours spent working for free and footing the bill for the business when it was not making a profit because the inputs like hay and grain were so expensive. Finally, we have found a groove that works. What scares us the most is the possibility of losing cattle because they consumed trash that has blown over from the landfill. If we have just one cow death it would put us financially in the red. How may years could we really continue if we started losing more cows because of this terrifying circumstance? The trash is not only harmful to our cow's welfare but also to the livelihood of our business. It would be heartbreaking to have to walk away from everything we have worked for because of the landfill expansion.

We are attaching a series of photos taken on our property over the past couple years and as recently as last week that document the trash being blown into our grazing pastures. There have been two instances where we have had to pull plastic out of the mouths of our calves to prevent them from eating it. It is nothing but sheer luck that we were in the right place at the right time. It is impossible to watch the herd constantly to prevent them from eating plastic blown in from the landfill. This cannot be allowed to continue and moving the landfill operation closer will only make the problem worse.

We ask you to reject LU-24-027 outright. There are no enforceable mitigation measures or conditions of approval that can be implemented to eliminate or reduce these impacts sufficiently to protect the uses on our property.

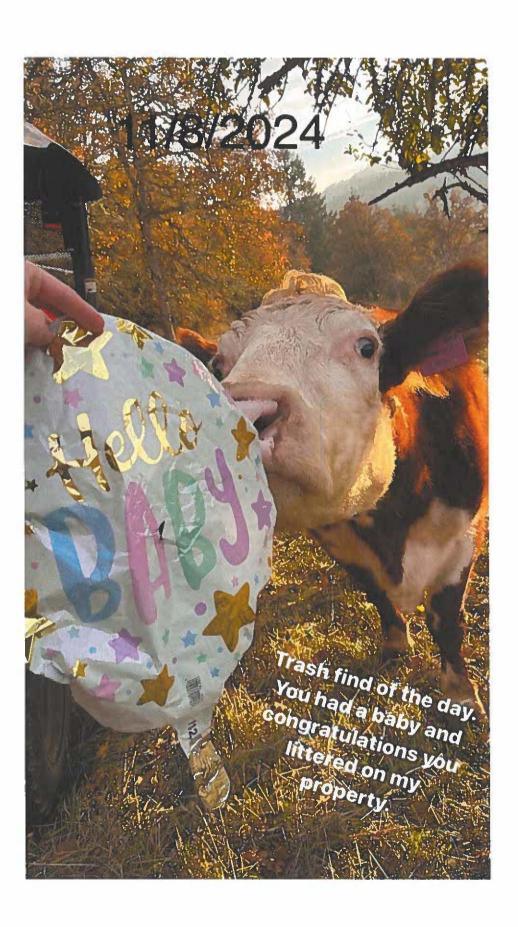
Sincerely,

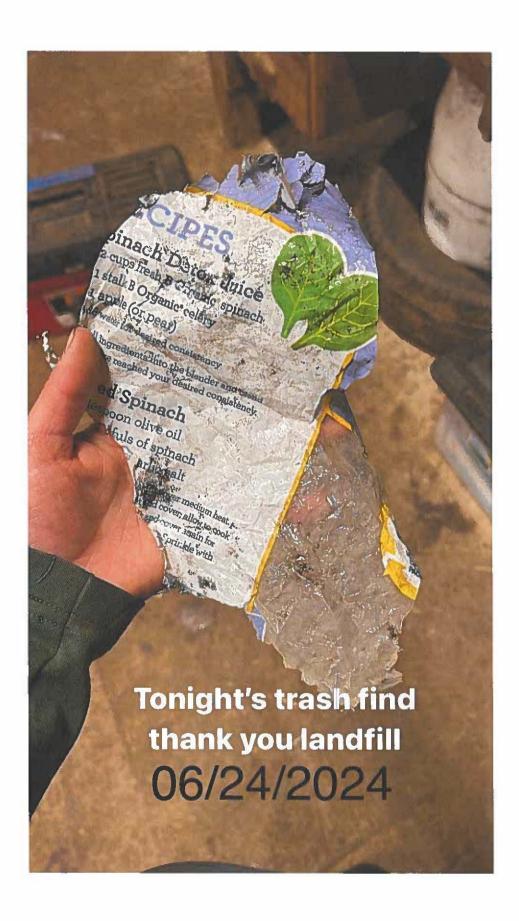
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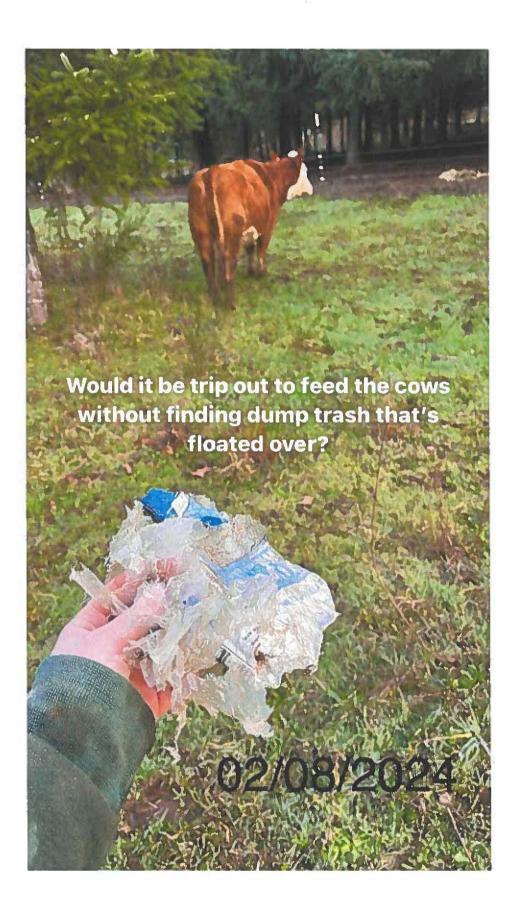






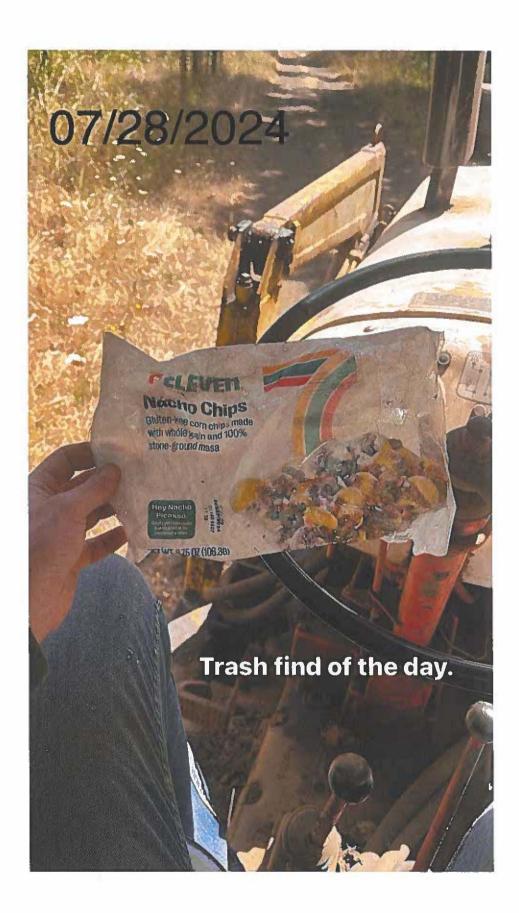








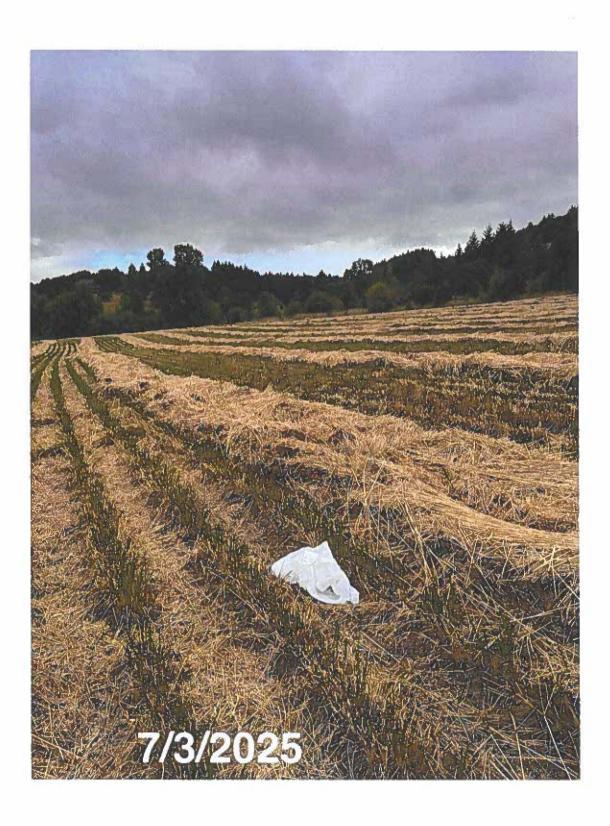




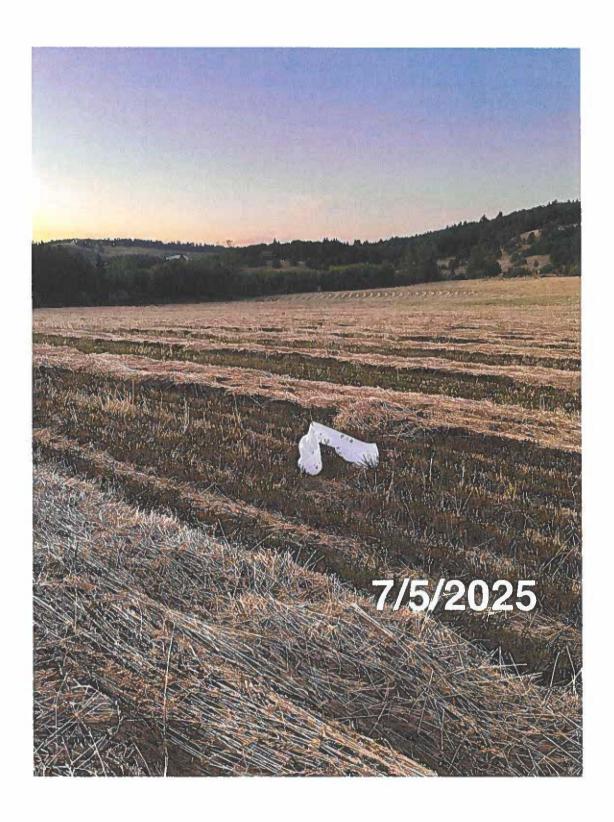












Krueger Property

