

To: The Benton County Planning Commission

July 9, 2025

Subject: Oppose/Deny LU-24-027

DATE RECEIVED:	7/9/2025
FROM:	Jenny Saarloos
PHONE OR EMAIL:	

Dear Benton County Planning Commissioners,

I have ceded time from Laura Hansen #27.

My name is Jenny Saarloos and I live at 390 NW Maxine Ave. Corvallis, OR 97330.

I urge the planning commission to deny the landfill expansion. The proposed expansion would seriously interfere with the character of the surrounding area in violation of Benton County Code 53.215. It would jeopardize the air and water quality. Traffic will increase. Odor and noise will increase. There will be potential long term climate and environmental consequences. This alone is a solid basis for denying the expansion.

We can't continue to bring garbage from all over Oregon and even other States and not change the character of the surrounding areas. We absolutely need to deal with our garbage but other places do also. When it comes to taking in Garbage Benton County has more than done its fair share under the current agreement. Please don't allow an expansion.

I would like to add that this expansion would cause a serious burden on the many properties that surround the landfill. For miles. I am aware that the potential harm will not be limited to these areas but I do feel that these residents of our county face an even more terrible burden if this expansion is passed. It is bad enough to smell an odor. But then one wonders what kind of toxins they might be breathing in. Wonders if the leachate will reach the well water. Wonders *what will happen to the property value. Wonders what way the wind will blow. This is no way to live.* Please put a cap on this problem. No amount of monitoring will make this expansion bearable.

Promises can be made to keep the leachate from getting to the ground water. But there is no way to guarantee that. Promises can be made to contain odors. And contain garbage. But that is also not always possible. Garbage stinks. Accidents happen—even under the best of circumstances. Fires happen. Can we really ask a volunteer fire department to be on the ready for a fire at an expanding landfill?

The Benton County 2040 Thriving Communities Core Values Initiative has at its very center equity & health. Please uphold these values and deny the landfill expansion. We can not have equity if the concerns of the surrounding area are invalidated. And by that I mean saying things like "that odor is not a nuisance it is a mere annoyance." Who gets to decide these things?

The Benton County Core Values goes on to state that "We recognize & will address the well-being of our people by including health considerations in all policies, practices, activities, & operations." The burden imposed by the expansion of the landfill to residents of the surrounding area are a threat to their mental and physical health. Please uphold our core values and preserve the character of this beautiful place and deny the landfill expansion.

Thank you,



Jenny Saarloos