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To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
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Fire: Why is Republic (Valley Landfills) not required to dig its own well and maintain a water storage tank on its property rather than to TAKE DRINKING WATER to use for fire/dust suppression on its landfill?

Organic matter: Why is Republic not required to provide compostable waste bins at apartments? That alone would reduce organic matter and

Groundwater contamination: Not only should Republic Services not dump its leachate into municipal water purification facilities that do not have the technology to remove the plethora of chemical contaminants, it should build its own facility with the technology to remove contaminants from the leachate to meet current DEQ specifications. Dilution via municipal water treatment plant output is NOT the solution. The water from the Cascade aquifer is an increasingly valuable resource that flows via many routes and times before reaching the Willamette River. Republic has made no specifications as to the depth of the test wells it said it would dig. Depth should be to bedrock, and very specific tests using tracers should be employed to verify lack of contamination.

Corporate compliance is a nationwide myth documented about many of our largest corporations; Republic Services is not an outlier. Its excessive verbiage abounds with slippery vacuity that lawyers can and do skate around. It has not kept records of problems, so it denies them. What assurance do we have that hazardous materials are not being dumped?

The playbook it uses is well-thumbed: Enter rural communities/counties, such as ours, known to lack resources to evaluate, to test for, and to adjudicate against violations. Overwhelm local administration with data, tangle it in legalese, lure it with "incentive\$". Once the door is cracked, force it open. Make an outlandish proposal for expansion; when it is rejected, return with another so much smaller that acceptance is granted. However Benton county's acceptance apparently has no contingent condition that further expansion will not be pursued.

Given the current federal administration's reductions in funds, personnel and regulations coupled with the state's lack of legal support and the county's admitted lack of resources, of course Republic Services will agree to the additional conditions. And they will ignore them, as they have done and continue to do with DEQ.

Moreover, given the tendency of mega-companies to use money to paper over problems rather than to find solutions, one cannot help but wonder if the same has been attempted here...

\$\$\$\$ End of life: When the landfill (current or expanded) is at capacity, Valley Landfill will declare bankruptcy, again, from the playbook - "Texas two-step".

How unfortunate that this entire proposal has not been conducted with independent consulting accountants who look farther ahead than the next budget year.

Leachate does not respect bankruptcy proceedings and cease flowing. Benton County will be saddled for decades, and I rather doubt the other counties whose trash has contributed 80% of the volume will be sharing in any remediation costs. I realize this was not covered last week, but I cannot see that an expanded landfill will ultimately cost Benton County more than it "earns". Mounting trash is a nationwide issue. Bigger landfills are not a solution. Benton county has an opportunity to be a leader in waste management, not a dump. Corvallis residents have the expertise to develop programs, which would be a much more productive

and beneficial use of their time

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