

SUPPORT SB-8:

STRINGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

“Local Gov’t Air Quality Regulations”

Give state officials authority over state environment enforcement

Sponsored by Sen. Peter Wirth

2021 New Mexico Legislative Session

What problem does SB-8 address?

- Both the N.M. Air Quality Control Act and the N.M. Hazardous Waste Act require the Board to adopt pollution standards that are **“no more stringent than” federal regulations.**
- This limitation not only unnecessarily **ties the hands** of state and local boards to pass regulations that would better protect communities, but also **prevents communities** from proposing regulations that are more tailored to their needs.
- Being bound to federal regulations means when the EPA weakens or eliminates a regulation, New Mexico is forced to follow suit, **even when it puts the health of New Mexicans in jeopardy.**
- Our state regulatory agencies **have to rely on the U.S. EPA** to set pollution standards for New Mexicans.

How does SB-8 fix this problem?

- SB-8 will amend the Air Quality Control Act and the Hazardous Waste Act to allow the Environmental Improvement Board, as well as local air quality boards, to adopt regulations that are **stronger than federal regulations.**
- The bill **removes this limitation** from both the Air Quality Control Act and the Hazardous Waste Act.
- The bill would free the Board to **adopt more stringent regulations** that may be appropriate for New Mexico.

The bill will not require any appropriations, and will not affect the State’s budget.

How does SB-8 advance the cause of environmental justice?

- SB-8 would allow the state to adopt stronger pollution standards, and thus provide more protection for New Mexico’s air, water, and land.

Supporters of the bill include: Health Action NM, Tewa Women United, National Parks Conservation Association, 350 NM, New Mexico Social Justice and Equity Institute, Mountain View Neighborhood Association, Moms Clean Air Force, WildEarth Guardians, Interfaith Power & Light, Earthcare/YUCCA, Center for Social Sustainable Systems, South Valley Regional Association of Acequias