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.