

Vote YES on SB 8

Provide New Mexico the authority to protect our health and climate instead of having to rely on Washington, D.C. to make the right decision.

Now more than ever, New Mexicans understand the importance of protecting our health, air, and climate. [Antiquated state laws](#) prevent the Environmental Improvement Board and local air quality boards from adopting regulations under Air Quality Control Act and the Hazardous Waste Act that are stronger than the federal regulations.

[Senate Bill 8](#) would allow these entities to adopt regulations that protect our health and climate to be more stringent than the federal government.

Four years of rollbacks threaten our health and climate

Over the last four years, the federal government rolled back [nearly 100](#) of the nation's environmental laws such as mercury regulations from coal-fired power plants, vehicle emission standards, oil and gas methane regulations, toxic air emission standards, protections from hazardous mining waste, and more.

New Mexico simply cannot rely on the federal government to make the right decision and should have the authority to adopt strong environmental protections now for our communities and future generations to come.

How SB 8 could benefit New Mexico

Protect air quality and public health by addressing hazardous air pollutants that cause adverse health effects and even cancer. This includes the pollution from oil and gas development that can disproportionately affect communities of color and emissions from the Navajo Refinery in Artesia, which emits high-levels of benzene.

Protect our climate by allowing the NM Environment Department to directly regulate methane. Currently, the agency cannot directly regulate methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that is more than 80 times more harmful to the climate than carbon dioxide. Rules currently under consideration to address leaks and emissions address smog-forming volatile organic compounds and only address methane incidentally as a co-pollutant.

Protect our groundwater and drinking water by allowing the state to consider strong, enforceable limits on emerging pollutants such as PFAS.

Strengthen cleanup standards at polluting facilities such as the [hazardous waste](#) deposited around Los Alamos National Lab from the Manhattan Project and Cold War-era plutonium processing. Local officials have [called for](#) more stringent clean-up standards to protect the drinking water. SB 8 could also allow the state to address cleanup at other site such as Sandia National Laboratories and Kirtland Air Force Base.

Protect visibility in our great outdoors by reducing pollution that leads to regional haze in in our national parks, national wilderness areas, and national monuments.

Contacts:

Jon Goldstein, Environmental Defense Fund, jgoldstein@edf.org, (505) 603-8522
Charlie De Saillan, New Mexico Environmental Law Center, (505) 819-9058