

# HB 108: Solid Waste Solvency Bill



*Solid waste programs protect public health and keep New Mexico's air, land and water clean.*

## How does it work?

Properly managing solid waste is a bedrock environmental protection activity that prevents contamination from entering our air, land, and water.

Solid waste operators in New Mexico pay permit application fees once every 20 years - not enough to fund even one full time position in the Environment Department's solid waste team. Permit fees have not been adjusted to account for inflation since 2007.

The Solid Waste Solvency Bill creates the non-reverting Solid Waste Permit Fund, removes the permit fee cap currently in place, expands eligible activities to include program administration and permit oversight costs, and allows for an annual adjustment to fees to allow for inflation. This bill does not increase fees.

Once this bill is passed, the New Mexico Environment Department will be able to petition the Environmental Improvement Board to adopt a new fee structure that properly funds and secures essential solid waste services that benefit all New Mexicans.

Solid waste program essential services include:

- Permitting landfills, infectious waste processors and other solid waste facilities to ensure they are operated in a manner that controls pollution
- Training and certifying solid waste operators to safely and responsibly operate facilities
- Educating New Mexicans on waste management and recycling
- Administering grants to local communities to clean up illegal dumpsites and improve recycling
- Responding to complaints of illegal dumping
- Inspecting solid waste facilities to ensure compliance with environmental laws

Passage of this bill will ensure the solvency of the solid waste permit program while helping to stretch critical General Fund appropriations to provide essential solid waste services to the public.

## How will it benefit New Mexico?



### Public Health

- ✓ Keeps people living close to landfills from being exposed to noxious fumes and flying debris
- ✓ Prevents human exposure to infectious waste such as COVID waste
- ✓ Protects the health and safety of essential solid waste workers



### Economy

- ✓ Supports continued financial assistance to local communities' solid waste and recycling initiatives
- ✓ Keeps New Mexico beautiful to attract visitors
- ✓ Maintains property values



### Environment

- ✓ Improves air quality
- ✓ Prevents groundwater contamination
- ✓ Protects drinking water sources
- ✓ Protects our outdoor industry economy

*Sponsors: Rep. Christine Chandler, Sen. Jeff Steinborn*