

DCN: 710

Sharon Davis
507 East Second
Portales, NM 88130
May 19, 2005

RECEIVED
5/23/05
KTY

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
Dear Mr. Bilbray,

I am a business owner in Portales, NM and my message today is that our businesses cannot rebound from a BRAC closure of Cannon Air Force Base.

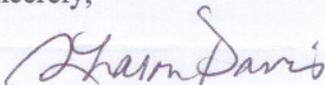
Last year I was invited to join Cannon Air Force Base in a civic leader's tour. The tour was wonderful and it enforced my belief that Cannon has much to offer in air space, lack of encroachment and quality, affordable housing for military personal. We were promised a fair BRAC, but this is not fair. We are not the vacation spot of the world. Four Star Generals do not want to play here, but working Air Force personnel and their families love it here. They are treated with respect and embraced by our community. They can afford housing and many remain in our communities enjoying the retirement benefits afforded by a Base Exchange and military care.

It has been widely reported that our community will be the hardest hit economically by the base closure. We will not rebound in my lifetime. Other Air Bases, like Nellis and Luke would barely feel a blip if they were closed and the communities encroaching on them would love to have their real estate for growth. On the other hand, my children and grand children will not be able to work in this community if Cannon is closed. No one wants to live where there is not a decent restaurant or clothing store.

OUR LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS AND WE DON'T LIKE THE FEELING.

Please consider what our faces look like and how serious your decisions are.

Sincerely,


Sharon Davis

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