

May 20, 2005

Mary Watson
355 South Roosevelt Road Z
Portales, NM 88130

Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.,

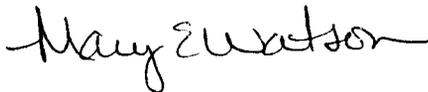
I would like the BRAC Commission to reconsider the decision to close Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico. There are many factors that need to be re-evaluated which include: an abundance of air space with no encroachment issues, a bombing range within miles, airspace to fly at supersonic speeds, ideal year-around flying weather, facilities for warfare training and readiness, and ample space for training and emergency situations. Looking at these factors long term, Cannon Air Force base should be expanding their operations to help secure a stronger nation.

The local community has truly supported Cannon during the past 50 years. During this time, Clovis has purchased air easements to protect the air space from encroachment, and land for additional housing as well as land for the installation of instrument lighting. Having traveled to many military bases, due to active family members, I have seen the difference in the way communities respond to having bases outside their backdoors. Clovis, Portales, and surrounding communities truly consider Cannon a part of our family.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact on our community. It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area the loss of more jobs, percentage-wise, than any other area in the country. Enrollment at the public and higher education systems will also be effected. Military retirees living within a two hour radius would not have healthcare available or access to a commissary. There is not another installation close by to serve the retired military.

Please reconsider all the facts before making your final decision. Come visit us and see what the commission is missing.

Sincerely,



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The Honorable James H. Bilbray,

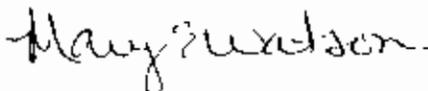
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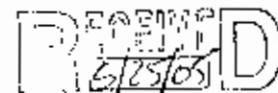
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General Lloyd W. Newton,

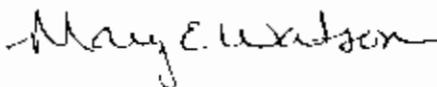
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The Honorable Philip Coyle,

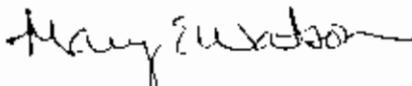
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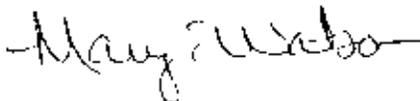
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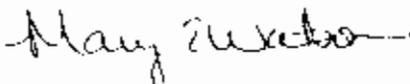
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