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Dear BLAC Commissioners:

Please tell us that the recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base is just a mistake and not a deliberate attempt to destroy Clovis, NM and the smaller communities surrounding it.

We cannot understand why Cannon Air Force Base is seen as so unimportant to our national security. We have great weather here so the days the planes can't fly are rare. Unlike many other military installations there are very few people who live around Cannon Air Force Base. Cannon will never be surrounded by thousands of people as some of the other military installations already are. In the unlikely event of a plane crash a pilot would almost have to search for a house to hit where in the more populated areas hitting homes or businesses would be a lot more likely. Melrose Bombing Range is just seconds away from Cannon which is a definite advantage over other military installations who don't have training areas close by.

I don't know if the economic impact on the area makes any difference at all to the people who are recommending that Cannon Air Force Base be closed. If we were losing 5-10% of our community it would hurt, but we could probably stand it. Clovis, NM is a small, mostly agricultural community with an average annual income of less than \$30,000 which is far below the national average.

Several years ago when the F-111's were taken out of Cannon Air Force Base we lost so many military residents that our community barely survived. We have worked hard to recover. Closing Cannon Air Force Base would be a blow that our small community would never recover from. We would be losing a larger percentage of our population than any other town in the country. We can not just sit back and let this happen without any protest.

Can you please tell us why our community and Cannon Air Force Base are seen as so unimportant that we can be wiped away as though we never existed. We are asked to support our nation and we have done that for 50 years for our friends and neighbors who are and have been stationed at Cannon Air Force Base. Now we are asking for your help to save Cannon Air Force Base and our community by voting against closing Cannon Air Force Base.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Bourne
Civis Mm