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May 28, 2005

Dear Mr. Gehman,

I am writing this letter in regards to our base in Clovis, New Mexico, Cannon Air Force Base. You have chosen to close our base and I believe once you and the other BRAC commissioners visit our base and review it, you will see what we have here and what potential our base still has if given the opportunity to stay open.

I am a civilian who is contracted out to the base as a switchboard operator. All of our operators work for a company by the name of ENMRSH and we were all hired on a disability program. Needless to say, we all desparately need our jobs at the base, as well as, all of the other civilian employees out there.

This base is an air combat command base. In reference to that, we have superior airspace here, as well as excellent weather conditions with approximately 320 days a year in which our planes can fly. We also have in the works, provisions being made for supersonic airspace. Our base has a new tower, new main gate, new security forces building and our runways have been redone and extended. We have the space to expand our base if you would give us the opportunity to do so. We can be more than a single mission base.

I, also, do not think that our bombing range, Melrose Bombing Range, has been taken

into consideration as a vital part of the base.

We the people of Clovis, Portales and all of the surrounding areas are very proud of our base and support the air force and the base 110%.

We believe Cannon is very essential for our homeland security. Cannon is on the outskirts of the city with great encroachment I might add.

I hope you will reconsider and keep our base open for it is very vital and important for all of the community. This is a small farming community and to close our base would be devastating. It would hurt our economy drastically. I would also like to mention how much closing the base would hurt our retired military members that live here. The closest installation for medical, commissary, base exchange services is approximately 200 miles away.

I want to thank you for your time in reading this. I cannot stress upon you the importance of my job out at the base with the physical disability that I have. Please keep Cannon Air Force Base open — we have the best air force base in the United States!

Sincerely,
Francine Fogleman