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March 20, 2005

Dear, Honorable Anthony J. Principi ; Honorable James H. Bilbray; Honorable Philip Coyle; Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.; Honorable James V. Hansen; General James T. Hill; General Lloyd W. Newton; Honorable Samuel K. Skinner; Brigadier General Sue E. Turner.

I would like a moment of your time to explain my concerns with the decision to close Cannon Air Force Base. My family has lived in Clovis, NM all our lives. It has always been a small safe community. Clovis is a nice town to raise your children and or retire in. We are a close knit community; we stand by and support one another during hard times and good times. A good example would be a child getting cancer and everyone pulling together donations and helping to seek resources to help in whatever way it is needed. Without all the caring people that participate in our community we would not have the resources to do so, and Cannon is a major part of the participants.

Closing Cannon Air Force Base would be detrimental to our community, our lives and the future of our children and grandchildren! With the loss of population all local businesses and companies would half to down size because there would be no need to provide services for the men and women at Cannon, contributing to our economy. Cannon closing would result in loss of jobs and employers hiring at minimum wage. Pay rates are not good here in Clovis anyway compared to other places, we could not survive that kind of hard ship. It would crash our housing market putting many contractors out of work, possibly closing a school leaving many teachers, janitor, and secretaries out of work. 1 in 5 jobs would be affected in one way or another if Cannon Air Force Base closes. Nor would this be easy to recuperate from the affects of closing Cannon would be long term 20 to 30 years to recover. New companies would not come here because the loss in economy and no money to be made, or not enough worth the trouble. I have a personal story. My dream as a child was to own a restaurant, I saved every dime I could. I figured maybe after many years of hard work I could. I have always been a leader and very strong willed. At 23 my dream came true I saved and purched my own steakhouse all by myself I owned and operated it. I had the restaurant roughly seven months before our fatal 911 Attack. Economy went down the tubes this was the beginning of the end for my steakhouse, sales dropped 85% we were to new and could not overcome the hardship. Although Cannon was a big support of my restaurant I entertained several banquets a week for Cannon. This is an example of how dependant we are on our economy and Cannon Air Force Base. I now work for Easter New Mexico Rehabilitave Services for the Handicap, (E.N.M.R.S.H.). We support and provide service for the disabled to help them live as independent as a life as possible, including job placement, housing and seeking the resources to make there lives better in whatever way we can. This keeps them out of institutions and contributes to them living a happier, healthier, longer life. We currently have government contracts which employees roughly 100 of our clients at Cannon Air Force Base. They are asking what will they do for jobs and we can't answer their questions. Many of our clients live a normal life they have children and, dependents own their homes and drive to work. Their rate of pay could not be replaced with any other employment and if the base closes jobs will be hard to come by and the handicap is the last to get jobs and the first to loose them. Sad but true, their mortgage loans were figured according to their income if they close the base they won't have jobs and many will loose

their homes. This would be detrimental to someone who worked so hard to become a homeowner especially when they never thought they would, everything they worked so hard for would be gone and we can't replace their jobs at Cannon.

Cannon has lots of room for growth, where as many others have no room for growth, our economy and growth are dependent on Cannon where as other communities and cities can survive and stand alone. Clovis can not survive Cannon closing people will be forced to leave their homestead to be able to make a living! I know we have very educated officials representing Clovis and our attempts to save Cannon. This letter is to share with you my personal reflections and opinions on how loosing Cannon will economically impact our community our home. We are praying for the opportunity to save our community from hardship and loss.

Thank You, Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Bartlett".

Laurie L. Bartlett  
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