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Kathy Roler Durand
138 Yucca Drive
Portales, NM 88130

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

I am writing this letter to urge you to remove Cannon Air Force Base from the BRAC closing list. I believe that Cannon does not fit the criteria for base closure. Cannon has an abundance of airspace, with no encroachment issues ... infact, the New Mexico Training Range Initiative would soon allow Cannon's pilots to fly supersonic during training missions. Further, the Melrose bombing range is almost immediately adjacent to Cannon, allowing more time for training and no wasted fuel!

The weather in New Mexico also permits year round training and there is ample room at Cannon for joint training and fighting missions. This base would also be perfect for future training missions for F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other types of military aircraft. Finally, the impact of closing Cannon would be devastating on Clovis, Portales, and the surrounding communities. I hope you will reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,
Kathy Roler Durand