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Keep Cannon!

REOPENED  
RJG/25/05

The Honorable James H. Bilbray,

I'm so concerned about the decision to close Cannon Air Force Base! Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure because it has many unique attributes that aid our country in national defense. Cannon does not have to compete for air space -- enough to fly at supersonic speeds. There are no encroachment issues: there's a bombing range just a few seconds away and ideal year-round flying weather.

Unlike some large cities that have a lot of industry etc., Portales doesn't have a lot. Cannon is the area's largest employer and we embrace it like a precious child. When Cannon needed additional housing, the community of Clovis purchased land and gave it back to the air force for the needed housing. Eastern New Mexico University, here in Portales, also provided university land for housing in Portales -- just north of the campus. Portales and Clovis are communities that support its family.

It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area at least 20% of its work force. It will have a devastating effect on the economy of the whole state.

I work at the university and we have many students who are military personnel or dependents. I don't even want to think about what it will do to our enrollment, the programs we offer and to the area public schools.

(Over)

Please reconsider all the facts before making  
your final decision.

Respectfully Yours,

Lenna Rolas