

Mr. Gehman,

I am writing you this letter as a concerned citizen. I have lived in Clovis New Mexico all of my life. I think you folks are making a terrible mistake in your decision to close Cannon Air Force Base. My family and I have worked harder than you could ever imagine getting where we are today. In many ways the welfare of my family and future are dependant on the existence of Cannon Air Force Base.

Let me explain.

I work for an organization called ENMRSH Inc. At ENMRSH we serve individuals with disabilities. We help them with virtually all aspects of there lives from residential to vocational. Approximately seventy-five of the individual that we serve work on federal contract at Cannon. They work in the commissary as the stockers and as the custodial crew. The also run the switchboard at Cannon. These individuals also work at the mess hall as dishwashers and mess attendants. I cannot even imagine the impact that the closure would have on their lives. I am also worried about the effect that this would have on my career and my family.

I also work a second job which is on Cannon Air Force Base. I work for DOD/NAF as an Operations Assistant for the Air Force Club Systems. I do not do this for the money. I do it for two other very important reasons. The first reason is because of health insurance. I have been married for almost ten years and during this time it has been next to impossible for me to get health insurance for my wife. Cannon has finally made that a reality. I have no clue what I would do if I didn't have this job and my wife was to become ill. The second reason is because of the base itself and the people out there. I work there because its fun. I enjoy the airmen, the officers and their dependants. If it wasn't for these reasons I'd be fishing with my five year old son on Saturdays instead of working.

There are many other non-personal reasons that I believe it is a mistake to close Cannon. First is the economy of Clovis and all the surrounding communities. I believe that this would have a grave impact on all aspects of life in the area surrounding Cannon.

Did you know that there are about 320 days of ideal flying weather in the Cannon and Clovis area? There is very little encroachment on flying space and Cannon itself. I am sure that the proposed expanded airspace for the New Mexico Air Training Initiative has been overlooked as well. This means that jets could fly lower and at supersonic speeds right here within just miles of the base. This in itself is a major perk for the Air Force.

These are just a few of the reasons that I think it would be in the best interest to keep Cannon Air Force Base alive and well in Eastern New Mexico.

Thank you for your time

Ricky J. Sain

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