

June 3, 2005

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi; The Honorable James H. Bilbray; The Honorable Philip Coyle; Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.; The Honorable James V. Hansen; General James T. Hill; General Lloyd W. Newton; The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner; and Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Members:

I am very much looking forward to your visit this month. I believe you will see what a grave mistake has been made in selecting Cannon Air Force Base for closure. On June 23rd when, according to local reports, only three of you visit Cannon, you will be met by a willful, yet frightened community. Our community is devastated by the possibility of losing this base.

I realize that the impact of a base closure on a community is only a secondary consideration to saving money for our government, but this community of ours is only in the past year begun to expand. Some say it is an expansion that is long overdue. Clovis has long been the stepchild of New Mexico. Many jokes have been made about trading Clovis to Texas for El Paso. You see, we are more Texan than New Mexican here on the east side. But that does not keep us from being proud of our state and our heritage. New Mexico, unlike Texas, is a very poor state. We lag behind the nation in wages, health care, education, and have high unemployment. Closing Cannon will just be another nail in our coffin.

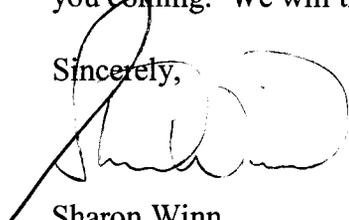
In a prior letter to you, I addressed the issue of encroachment and air space over crowding. Recently I saw this quote on the Air Force BRAC website:

“Air Force units will also be placed in higher military-value settings and located closer to appropriate ranges for operational missions,” General Jumper noted.

I am sorry, but I find this laughable. If the object is to get closer to appropriate ranges, then Kirtland should be moved to Cannon to be closer to the Melrose Range. The airspace issue should also be a consideration. There is no congestion in the skies of eastern New Mexico. Again, you must look at Luke, Kirtland, and Nellis Air Force Bases. These are areas where there is an accident waiting to happen.

Thank you once again for your time and I hope you will reconsider the closure of Cannon. We look forward to your visit and hope that there will be more than three of you coming. We will treat you so many ways, you're bound to like one of them!

Sincerely,



Sharon Winn
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Clovis, NM 88101