

5-26-2005

05312005

Jamie King  
129 South Indio  
Portales, NM 88130

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner,

I am very concerned about the proposal to close Cannon Air Force Base.

I do not believe the Commission is fully aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our national defense. These include an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues, bombing range only seconds away from the base, airspace available to fly at supersonic speeds, space and facilities to accommodate joint warfare training and readiness, and ideal year-round flying weather, among many others.

In addition to the military value to the nation, Cannon has been supported over the last 50 years by the local communities like no other in the country. We consider Cannon a part of our family.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact on our economy. It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area the loss of more jobs, percentage-wise, than any other area in the country. The estimation is that we will lose at least 20 percent of our workforce.

Our entire area, including Amarillo and Lubbock, is home to a large military retiree population. These retirees rely on Cannon for healthcare, grocery shopping and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

Please consider all the facts before making your final decision. I appreciate your time and consideration on this matter.

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General Lloyd W. Newton,

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General James T. Hill,

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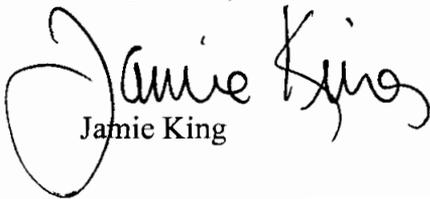
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.,

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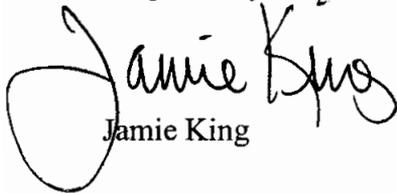
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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner,

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The Honorable Philip Coyle,

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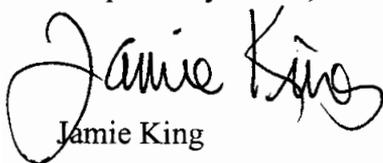
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