

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to express our strong support for Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB). We are dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the current investment at CAFB and want to work with your Administration to find additional investments and forward-looking missions that can benefit CAFB and the U.S. Air Force Special Operations.

We are extremely concerned by the decision of the Air Force's leadership to relocate seven MC-130J aircraft and approximately 300 to 350 service members from CAFB to Davis-Monthan. We are equally committed to preserving CAFB as a stronghold of Air Force Special Operations, ensuring its continued contributions to national security.

The importance of CAFB to Clovis, Curry County, and the State of New Mexico as a whole cannot be overstated. According to an analysis by the University of New Mexico's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, CAFB and Melrose Air Force Range (AFR), in FY 2020, contributed an estimated direct, indirect, and induced effect of 6,413 jobs, over \$400 million in wages and salaries, and \$2 billion in a total industrial output.

The 27th Special Operations Wing (27<sup>th</sup> SOW) is excelling in its vital national security mission and CAFB is well positioned to expand its mission with your Administration's increased investment and support. U.S. taxpayers and New Mexicans have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to build the infrastructure and unique capabilities of CAFB, making it the premier Air Force Special Operations installation in the country. We are proud to have championed initiatives to grow and support the role of the base and we look forward to working with you to continue CAFB's important mission and maintain its important role for US military operations worldwide.

CAFB is located in an area with access to clear airspace and a varied geography, which continues to provide opportunities for some of the most realistic training and testing in the nation. The Air Force and the nation would greatly benefit from continuing to invest in this unmatched airspace and existing infrastructure. We are also extremely proud of the strong community support for CAFB. The Eastern New Mexico community has the highest level of understanding and appreciation for the base's mission and the service members stationed there.

Along with our state and local partners, we steadfastly support CAFB and the 27<sup>th</sup> SOW, and stand ready to find additional forward-looking missions that enhance CAFB.

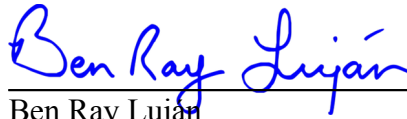
Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Cannon Air Force Base, the Airmen and their families, and the surrounding community.

Sincerely,



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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress