

**Thank you for contacting me**

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**To:** johplummer@yahoo.com

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October 6, 2010

Dear Mr. Plummer,

Thank you for contacting me regarding proposed Low Altitude Tactical Navigation (LATN) flights in northern New Mexico. I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue

As you may be aware, the Air Force has proposed a plan to conduct LATN training missions over northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Under this proposal the 27<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing, stationed at Cannon Air Force base (CAFB), would fly missions over designated non-congested areas to hone important skills, such as flying at night and in mountainous terrain.

The Air Force is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to analyze the impact of these flights on noise levels, air quality, terrestrial and bird populations, and cultural resources, such as recreational land use. The EA also includes a comment period intended to allow affected communities a voice in the evaluation process.

The communities of northern New Mexico are rich with culture, history and beauty. With this beauty and diversity in mind, some residents of northern New Mexico have contacted me to express concern that LATN missions could harm the environment, impact noise levels and disrupt the tourist economy. I have spoken with the Air Force and voiced my belief that the rules in place to protect population centers and noise sensitive areas, like cultural sites, should be fully observed.

In order to ensure that the communities of northern New Mexico have the opportunity to express concerns and gather all relevant facts regarding the proposed plans, Senator Jeff Bingaman, Representative Ben Ray Lujan, and I sent a letter to the leadership of CAFB for an extension of the EA comment period, originally set to expire October 4. I am pleased to report that the Air Force has agreed to extend the comment period to November 15. The letter also requested that the CAFB

leadership conduct additional outreach to the impacted communities to provide additional details to the public about the proposal, as well as hear their concerns.

I encourage you to monitor the EA on Cannon's website [www.cannon.af.mil](http://www.cannon.af.mil) and attend any public meetings that CAFB hosts to speak with residents about the LATN proposal. Please be assured that I also will continue to monitor this important issue.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with me. Please feel free to contact me with your concerns regarding any federal issue by visiting my website at [www.tomudall.senate.gov](http://www.tomudall.senate.gov). For more information, you may also visit my Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Senator-Tom-Udall/106433512869> and receive up to the minute updates through my Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/senatortomudall>.

Very truly yours,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator