

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF THE 150TH FIGHTER WING
3 AND URGING THE FULL SUPPORT OF OUR STATE AND LOCAL ELECTED
4 OFFICIALS IN FACILITATING THE SELECTION OF THE UNITED STATES
5 AIR FORCES NEWEST TACTICAL FIGHTER, THE F-35, FOR PERMANENT
6 FUTURE DEPLOYMENT TO KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE.

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8 WHEREAS, United States military forces have used the
9 150th fighter wing, the famed "Flying Tacos", for air
10 interdiction in direct support of the United States air
11 force's air combat command, the 12th air force; and

12 WHEREAS, the Flying Tacos' current mission aircraft, the
13 F-16, maintains a worldwide deployment capability for the
14 United States air force; and

15 WHEREAS, the Kirtland air force community, or "Team
16 Kirtland", has been an integral part of New Mexico's proud
17 military history for more than sixty years; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States air force announced a new
19 "road map" for all current and future assets on January 16,
20 2008; and

21 WHEREAS, this new road map could mean additional
22 aircraft for New Mexico's three major air bases of which
23 Kirtland air force base is one; and

24 WHEREAS, United States air force chief of staff
25 General T. Michael Moseley has stated that this road map is a

1 long-term plan to modernize the air force, and it outlines
2 what the next generation's weapons systems will be and where
3 they might be based in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, the United States air force will have fewer
5 aircraft in the future and those remaining limited assets
6 will have to be more efficient and flexible than present
7 systems; and

8 WHEREAS, Kirtland air force base in 1995 and Cannon air
9 force base in 2005 were both saved from closure or major
10 realignment by the sustained effort of New Mexico's federal,
11 state and local elected officials; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States air force has indicated that
13 Kirtland air force base is on a short list of thirty-three
14 bases nationwide that are being studied for basing of this
15 nation's newest tactical fighter, the F-35; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States air force has stated that
17 only those worthy installations that meet preliminary
18 standards for these new aircraft missions will be allowed to
19 undergo final rigorous environmental evaluation and
20 operational analysis; and

21 WHEREAS, these required and complex studies, which will
22 take several years, will determine the final basing mode of
23 the F-35; and

24 WHEREAS, due to Kirtland air force base's long and
25 sustained record in the defense systems evaluations of both

1 domestic and foreign systems testing, and due to such factors
2 as low installation operational costs, recent infrastructure
3 investment, "Team Kirtland's" overlapping and proximate
4 relationship with its associated units and its incalculable
5 replacement cost to the United States, the United States
6 department of defense decided to retain Kirtland air force
7 base as a vital national asset; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States department of defense has
9 announced plans to retire "Team Kirtland's Flying Tacos" in
10 the near future due to their age and changing mission
11 requirements; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States air force has announced plans
13 to field the F-35 tactical fighter jet and place it in
14 service in 2013; and

15 WHEREAS, unless Kirtland air force base retains an
16 active future aircraft mission, New Mexico's historic
17 contribution to national air power and its economic vitality
18 may be put at risk;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support an active and sustained
21 mission to assist all public and private efforts to bring the
22 F-35 tactical fighter to Kirtland air force base; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the United States departments of defense and
25 air force, the commanding officer of Kirtland air force base,

1 the commanding officers of the New Mexico air national guard
2 and the 150th fighter wing, the governor, the New Mexico
3 adjutant general and the members of the New Mexico
4 congressional delegation. _____

SJM 35
Page 4

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