

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 35

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Joseph J. Carraro

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

16
17 WHEREAS, United States military forces have used the 150th
18 fighter wing, the famed "Flying Tacos", for air interdiction in
19 direct support of the United States air force's air combat
20 command, the 12th air force; and

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

24 WHEREAS, the Kirtland air force community, or "Team
25 Kirtland", has been an integral part of New Mexico's proud

.172274.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 military history for more than sixty years; and

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

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

7 WHEREAS, United States air force chief of staff General
8 T. Michael Moseley has stated that this road map is a long-term
9 plan to modernize the air force, and it outlines what the next
10 generation's weapons systems will be and where they might be
11 based in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States air force will have fewer
13 aircraft in the future and those remaining limited assets will
14 have to be more efficient and flexible than present systems;
15 and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, the United States air force has stated that only
25 those worthy installations that meet preliminary standards for

.172274.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 these new aircraft missions will be allowed to undergo final
2 rigorous environmental evaluation and operational analysis; and

3 WHEREAS, these required and complex studies, which will
4 take several years, will determine the final basing mode of the
5 F-35; and

6 WHEREAS, due to Kirtland air force base's long and
7 sustained record in the defense systems evaluations of both
8 domestic and foreign systems testing, and due to such factors
9 as low installation operational costs, recent infrastructure
10 investment, "Team Kirtland's" overlapping and proximate
11 relationship with its associated units and its incalculable
12 replacement cost to the United States, the United States
13 department of defense decided to retain Kirtland air force base
14 as a vital national asset; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States department of defense has
16 announced plans to retire "Team Kirtland's Flying Tacos" in the
17 near future due to their age and changing mission requirements;
18 and

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

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

.172274.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the United States departments of defense and air
7 force, the commanding officer of Kirtland air force base, the
8 commanding officers of the New Mexico air national guard and
9 the 150th fighter wing, the governor, the New Mexico adjutant
10 general and the members of the New Mexico congressional
11 delegation.

- 4 -

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25