

The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, Second Session

LAWS 2008

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

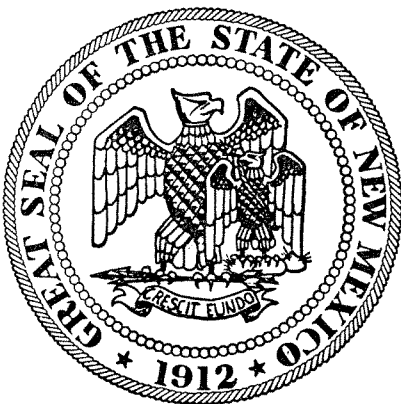
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 35

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Introduced by

SENATOR JOSEPH J. CARRARO



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.

7  
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. \_\_\_\_\_

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s/Diane D. Denish  
Diane D. Denish, President  
Senate

s/Lenore M. Naranjo  
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk  
Senate

s/Ben Lujan  
Ben Lujan, Speaker  
House of Representatives

s/Stephen R. Arias  
Stephen R. Arias, Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives