

October 12, 2024

Dear Senator Kelly:

First let me say thank you for your work as a senator on behalf of all of us in Southern Arizona, and for your long years of service throughout your military career. You are my chosen Senator, and I appreciate you taking the time to consider my letter.

As you likely know, the recently issued US Air Force Draft Environmental Impact Statement proposes to dramatically increase military training in the area around Tombstone. I suspect you know better than most the full impact of this kind of training. The prospect of flights as low as 100 feet AGL, flights that break the sound barrier as low as 5,000 feet, the release of chaff and flares, and increased nightly training missions pose too many negative consequences for this peaceful area.

The vast Barry M Goldwater Range already hosts these missions, and I believe the Air Force should limit its lower elevation and supersonic flights, and other combat training, such as dropping chaff and flares, to its current range there. The Air Force must not shift the burden of risk to our rural and tribal communities.

Please support my request to reject the Air Force's intent to expand military combat training over these rural Arizona communities and tribal and public lands. Their proposal is not acceptable.

As a 23-year resident of Cochise County, drawn by the solitude of this area, I am EXTREMELY CONCERNED about the exponential increase in noise and risk of fire. The noise alone would decimate the value of my home and property. As to fire risk, my 80-acres are in an area between the Tombstone and Bisbee fire protection districts. As a result, any fires here pose a grave threat to me and my property as well as the scores of residents, ranchers and others who have their livelihoods and/or make a living from this land.

I completely understand that from the air this land appears wild and uninhabited, but it is not. I am writing to ask if you will formally oppose this proposal and submit your comments in support of my opposition to the DEIS by November 12, 2024 via the Air Force website: www.arizonaregionalairspaceeis.com/comments.

Please respond and let me know if you will oppose this project which presents a threat to our economy, our environment, and our way of life in southern Arizona.

[also sent to other elected officials]