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**TESTIMONY OF LEE FARBER,
CO-CHAIR, CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Good evening. My name is Lee Farber and I am a resident of Chevy Chase.

I received my first public library card in 1929, the year of the really GREAT Depression, and I have proudly carried a library card since. My parents were immigrants to this country and they understood the importance of education, books, and learning toward fulfillment of the American dream for themselves and their children.

Many years later, as a language arts teacher and reading specialist, I tried to spark that same love and appreciation for libraries in the hearts and minds of the thousands of students that filled my classrooms. Often, the library was an extension of my classroom as do many teachers today.

Now, as an octogenarian, I understand fully the economic downturn and the budgetary crisis you are dealing with. I recognize that libraries are not considered essential by governmental standards. But they are **ESSENTIAL** to the poor and middle class of all ages who struggle each day to make ends meet. They are **ESSENTIAL** to the senior population who are seeing their incomes shrink and their expenses go up. They are **ESSENTIAL** to our foreign residents in pursuit of literacy and success just as my parents so long ago.

Libraries are **ESSENTIAL** Hallmarks of a democratic, civilized society at a time when the United States is trying to help establish those principles abroad. And they are **ESSENTIAL** to the very soul (spelled S O U L) in all of us.

The cuts you have made to the library system and propose doing this year, constitute a pathway to dismantling the libraries that serve our communities and neighborhoods so outstandingly. I urge you to re-think this position.

On behalf of the Chevy Chase Library Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter, I wish to remind you that **LIBRARIES DO MATTER---**
NO FURTHER CUTS!!!

Thank you for listening.