It has been my personal experience as a former employee with Fitchburg Access Television, and current member of the Board of Directors of both Fitchburg Access and Ashburnham-Westminster Access Television, that community access stations play a very important role within the fabric of the community they serve. Top of the list is education. Most active PEG stations work closely with both community members, as well as students, in the training and education element of television production. Many stations, such as Ash-West, are imbedded in local schools. Many, such as Fitchburg Access, work closely not only with the local school system, but also with nearby centers of higher education such as Fitchburg State University. Reducing the funding needed to operate community access stations, will have a major negative impact on that educational element, and will also severely limit any kind of community participation in local programming. Cable providers are not suffering financially. It makes no sense that communities should suffer in order for cable providers to reap an even greater financial benefit.