

CEC Committee

January 15, 2018
John Tippetts

I. Introduction

- A. John Tippetts—Director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.
- B. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.
- C. It is always a pleasure for me.
- D. My remarks today will be very brief.

II. I know every year you hear **a lot of the same information.**

- A. There are many of us who are here every year to advocate for increases to employee pay.
- B. You hear that request repeated so much, that you may wonder if anyone appreciates the increases that have been given the last few years.
- C. So, the first thing I want to say is, “Thank you.”
 - 1. I meet with DEQ employees here in Boise and around the state a couple of time each year, and I can tell you that they are appreciative of what you have done in recent years.
 - 2. The increases have helped them keep up with escalating costs; and
 - 3. They see your actions as an indication that you value them and the work they do for the people of Idaho.

III. I am aware that the **Governor** has **recommended another increase.**

- A. I support that recommendation.
- B. I think it is needed for us to stay competitive as an employer in this economy; and
- C. It is needed by our employees to keep pace with the escalating costs of living.

IV. Now, just a brief word about **benefits**—specifically PERSI.

- A. There is a lot of talk about revising the retirement plan.
- B. I just want to mention that PERSI plays a significant role in helping us to retain a qualified workforce.
 - 1. Once an employee has worked for the state a few years, it becomes difficult to walk away from the defined benefit retirement plan .

2. I think that is a big reason that many of our employees stay with the state for so many years—and that is a significant advantage for us—particular since the workforce is becoming increasingly mobile.

V. **Closing**

- A. Mr. chairman and members of the committee: that concludes my testimony except to offer my sincere expression of gratitude for your service to our state.
- B. I would be happy to address questions, if there are any.