

24 good-faith. This bill provides the opportunity for both sides to agree to start negotiations later
25 and to extend beyond the deadline if both agree to do so. In the event that there is not an
26 agreement on extending negotiations, the impasse process, or possibly mediation, continues to
27 be in place to help both sides reach that common ground necessary to complete good-faith
28 negotiations.

29 I contend that stakeholders are better cared for, if an agreement can be reached or if
30 the good-faith negotiations are complete and contracts can be issued prior to the beginning of
31 the next school year. Teachers and administrators will be offered a contract, school districts
32 will have a better understanding of personnel needs and, more importantly, will have the time
33 to adequately fill any vacancies, and the students and families will know their teachers and
34 administrators.

35 I ask that you support the process to provide a more expeditious pathway for the
36 completion of negotiations in a fair and reasonable timeframe through a Do Pass
37 Recommendation on Senate Bill 2215. Thank you for the time today and I would stand
38 available for any questions you may have. I am also available through email at
39 Robert.Lech@k12.nd.us.