

Statement of the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners

April 16, 2018

On April 3, a PERC Hearing Examiner issued an Order finding that both the County and the Teamsters committed unfair labor practices by refusing to bargain with one another in February 2017. This decision was half-right and half-wrong. The Teamsters unquestionably refused to bargain with the County unless they could do so in private. But the County never refused to bargain and never acted in bad faith. In fact, the County has always stood ready to bargain with the Teamsters – even today. As the elected representatives of the people of Lincoln County, we are empowered by our constituents and state law to set forth a policy of open collective bargaining. We continue to stand by that policy 100%. In our opinion, the Hearing Examiner’s Order contains several errors that need to be corrected. It also utterly fails to provide any meaningful path forward for the parties.

We will appeal to the full Public Employment Relations Commission and then to the courts, if necessary. No matter how long it takes, we will fight to protect the rights of Lincoln County and its people to promote common-sense government transparency.