



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Natural Resources**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1400  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561  
Main: 907.269.8431

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 121  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: DNR Responses to Questions from Senate Resources Committee Meeting on SB30 on Feb. 3, 2025

Dear Senator Giessel:

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) Dir. Ricky Gease provided testimony at the Feb. 3, 2025, Senate Resources Committee hearing on Sen. Jesse Bjorkman's Senate Bill 30, State Park Permits for Disabled Veterans. The committee asked how DPOR defines the term "disabled veteran" and what proof of disability is required.

DPOR by practice (not by statute or regulation) employs the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs' (VA) definition of "service-connected disability". This term does not require a veteran's disability to reach any particular percentage threshold in order to qualify for Disabled Veterans (DAV) permits through DPOR. Veterans seeking DAVs are required to provide evidence of their service-connected disability by presenting either their VA Statement of Benefit Letter (with a photo ID) or a VA card that states "service-connected disability."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JC Boyle III".

John C. Boyle III  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Cc: Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office  
Cc: Senator Jesse Bjorkman, SB30 Sponsor