

Lou Mansolillo

From: Erik Hemmila <erikhemmila@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:02 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Subject: Support the Kratom Consumer Protection Act and Avoid Banning Kratom

Good morning,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ban on kratom and to urge you to support the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. Kratom, a natural herb derived from the leaves of the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree, has been a source of relief for many individuals dealing with various health issues.

Kratom is not an opioid. Kratom does not cause respiratory depression, which is a key characteristic of opioids. The NIH has recently been awarded over 10 million dollars to research kratom. They found that kratom can be safely consumed. They advised that kratom is a safer alternative to opioids and other pharmaceuticals.

Kratom has been used for centuries in traditional medicine and has gained popularity in recent years for its potential therapeutic benefits. Many people rely on kratom to manage chronic pain, alleviate anxiety, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being. Banning kratom would deprive these individuals of a safe and natural alternative to conventional medications.

I urge you to consider the importance of preserving access to kratom for those who rely on it for their health and well-being. The Kratom Consumer Protection Act is a balanced approach that ensures the safety and quality of kratom products while allowing responsible consumers to continue using this beneficial herb.

By supporting the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, you can help establish regulatory standards that protect consumers and promote a safe marketplace for kratom products. I believe that this approach strikes the right balance between ensuring public safety and respecting the rights of individuals to make informed choices about their health.

I strongly encourage you to reject the ban on kratom and instead advocate for the passage of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. Your support for this legislation will demonstrate your commitment to public health and consumer protection.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I hope that you will take the necessary steps to protect access to kratom and support the well-being of individuals who benefit from its use.

Sincerely,

Erik Hemmila