

Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2408 and House Bill 1628

Co-Chairmen Klein and Ruby and members of the Special Ad Hoc Policy Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the American Kratom Association today, and we stand in support of Senate Bill 2408 and House Bill 1628 with a couple minor amendments.

There are several experts from the science industry and the American Kratom Association who will provide much more detailed testimony following me. We have uploaded our written testimony for your reference.

We believe that the prudent action for the Legislative Assembly is to enact clear regulations and guardrails around kratom products. Age restrictions, licensing, taxing, compliance and penalties similar to what is already on the books surrounding alcohol and tobacco is responsible governing. The AKA has been working in other states to enact Kratom Consumer Protection Act language, and we look forward to adding North Dakota to that list.

I want to thank the Kratom Working Group for wading through the information and testimony as they crafted these two pieces of legislation. I'm introducing Mac Haddow from the American Kratom Association, who has previously provided significant data and experience previously about the regulation of kratom products and will also walk through our amendments being proposed for HB 1628.

In short, we appreciate the legislature and the Administration for moving forward with responsible regulations.