

Testimony Regarding SB 2408
In Support, With Emphasis on Protecting Traditional
Botanical Kratom

Members of the Special Ad Hoc Policy Committee,

My name is Tara Morast, and I am a resident of Bismarck, North Dakota.

I support the Legislature's effort to address synthetic mitragynine derivatives and potentially dangerous products being sold under the name "kratom."

However, I respectfully ask legislators to ensure that SB 2408 remains carefully written so that traditional botanical kratom is not unintentionally treated the same as manufactured synthetic derivatives or highly concentrated 7-hydroxymitragynine products.

That distinction matters to me personally.

I have used traditional kratom in the past and have experienced a meaningful improvement in my ability to function in everyday life. Before kratom, I struggled with fatigue, motivation, focus, and completing everyday tasks. Traditional kratom has helped me become more productive, focused, capable, and engaged.

I am not asking North Dakota to allow an unregulated market.

I support reasonable age restrictions, accurate labeling, appropriate product testing, contaminant and adulterant standards, and restrictions targeting synthetic or dangerously concentrated products.

What concerns me is treating every product associated with the kratom plant as though it presents the same risks.

Traditional botanical kratom should not become collateral damage in an effort to address newer synthetic or highly concentrated products.

North Dakota can protect consumers without removing responsible adults' access to traditional botanical kratom.

I respectfully ask you to support narrowly targeted action against synthetic mitragynine derivatives while maintaining a clear legal distinction protecting traditional natural-leaf kratom.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Tara Morast
Bismarck, North Dakota