

My name is Tim Amundson, and I live in Williston. I a former opiate addict and have been clean from heroin for almost 11 years. I give a lot of that credit to kratom, it has significantly changed my life for the better. I'm a head chef and father to a 2 year old daughter with special needs, so Im on my feet all day every day. Kratom not only helps with the pain and exhaustion I feel every day but also helped me stay clean by getting rid of my cravings for hard drugs.

Plain leaf kratom is not even similar to concentrated 7oh products and has been safely used by millions of Americans every day. I don't think it's the governments place to decide which herbal supplements should be available and used by adults. There is no danger poses to the public by kratom leaf, and in fact has helped many people I know stay off opioids and quit drinking alcohol. I think it would be dangerous and irresponsible to ban kratom. There is a complete lack of evidence backing up the idea that it's dangerous. It should be regulated and remain available to North Dakotans.

When the same bill was introduced in 2015 North Dakota lawmakers saw no reason to ban it then. Nothing has changed since then, except that other products have entered the market labeled as kratom in a misleading way to trick consumers and legislators alike. I think some serious thought and attention must be paid to the nuance of this matter. To ban an herbal supplement made with ground leaf powder is absurd when so many North Dakotans have die due to cigarettes and alcohol while actual kratom leaf is safe and effective.

Thanks for your time and consideration with this matter.