

To the Honorable Legislators,

My name is Stephen McIntosh. I am medically retired and permanently disabled with advanced heart failure and chronic pain. I am writing to voice my **CONDITIONAL SUPPORT** for SB 2408 that would mirror proposed federal law to schedule synthetic kratom derivatives such as 7-hydroxymitragynine ("7-OH").

I support this bill in its current form, at the specified thresholds, and for the named compounds.

I do NOT support the scheduling of mitragynine or botanical kratom.

I use botanical kratom to manage acute and chronic pain and have since 2018 when my pain medication was stopped against my will. It allows me to perform basic housework, and the PT exercises recommended by cardiology to preserve cardiac function. Without adequate pain management I am unable to do these things and am substantially more impaired.

I do not advocate for, or support the general availability of semi-synthetic and synthetic derivatives of botanical kratom, including 7-hydroxymitragynine ("7-OH") exceeding 0.050% on a dry weight basis. I appreciate that this law attempts to align with proposed DEA scheduling notices.

These products were introduced into the marketplace without meeting even the most lax standards for reasonable basis for safety under the conditions of use. Further the packaging of these products is often attractive to children, misleading to consumers who may believe it is botanical kratom, makes illegal medical claims and portrays itself implicitly as an approved drug, or portrays itself in the manner of illicit narcotics all but guaranteeing to give consumers a euphoric high.

Botanical kratom contains exceedingly small quantities of "7-OH" that form during drying that are extremely low as to have no meaningful effect. The threshold in this bill is sufficient to exempt botanical kratom and protect consumers.

Sincerely,

SIGNED
STEPHEN MCINTOSH
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Stephen C. McIntosh, MBA
(Ret.) Software Developer and Instructor of Computer Information Systems
smcintosh@mcintosh-household.org