

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2408

Global Kratom Coalition | North Dakota

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Matthew Lowe and I am the Executive Director of the Global Kratom Coalition, or GKC, an alliance of consumers, scientific experts, and industry leaders working to ensure consumers have access to safe and appropriately regulated natural kratom products.

I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2408.

I want to make our position very clear. We support aggressive action against concentrated synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine, mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, and other synthetic kratom derivatives that have entered the market.

These products are fundamentally different from traditional botanical kratom.

That distinction is not one created by our organization. It is also the distinction being drawn by the federal government.

In July, the DEA published notices of intent addressing concentrated synthetic 7-OH and the related substances mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM-15, and MGM-16. On August 26, the DEA finalized its temporary scheduling order for mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM-15, and MGM-16, placing them into Schedule I of the federal Controlled Substances Act. The separate federal process concerning concentrated synthetic 7-OH remains underway.

Importantly, federal officials have repeatedly made clear that these actions are not intended to schedule natural leaf kratom.

That distinction matters.

Natural kratom contains only trace amounts of natural 7-OH. The products that created this new public-health concern are manufactured or concentrated to deliver quantities of 7OH and other novel derivatives that are 1000 times higher than what would be found in natural kratom leaf.

Natural kratom leaf has been consumed for generations in South East Asia and has been available in the United States for decades. The leaf did not suddenly change over the last 3 years.

What changed was the introduction of synthetic products that masquerade under the name 'kratom'.

North Dakota should address what changed in line with the Federal government.

Senate Bill 2408 does that by targeting synthetic mitragynine derivatives while preserving the distinction between those substances and natural kratom.

We are not asking the Legislature to ignore legitimate concerns about these new products. We are asking you to address those concerns directly and precisely.

North Dakota can aggressively remove synthetic derivatives from the market without making responsible adult consumers of traditional botanical kratom collateral damage.

We therefore respectfully urge a do-pass recommendation on Senate Bill 2408 and ask the Legislature to preserve its targeted approach.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions you may have.

Matthew Lowe
Executive Director of the Global Kratom Coalition