



**Special Ad Hoc Policy Committee
SB 2408 & HB 1628
September 1, 2026**

Chairman Klein, Chairman Ruby, and Members of the Committee,

Questions and concerns from the community about kratom use and its effects have become increasingly prevalent in recent weeks. To address this feedback, the Board of County Commissioners formed a Kratom Committee comprised of local officials and residents, behavioral health providers, the Williams County State's Attorney, and the Williams County Sheriff. The purpose of the Committee is to gather facts and stakeholder input to inform decisions and recommendations regarding the use, access, and regulation of kratom products.

Our written testimony today provides input on the two kratom-related bills being considered during the Special Session, based on recommendations adopted by the Kratom Committee.

While a total ban is ideal, the Committee and the BOCC recognize the **importance of the legislative process for developing regulations that are both effective and enforceable**. Regulations should focus on **increased consequences for retailers** and **decreased access to kratom and kratom products**.

We assert that kratom should be treated more like marijuana as opposed to tobacco when it comes to regulation, with a differentiation between medicinal and recreational use. Regulations should allow for use of pure kratom under supervision of a physician, if use of the substance is warranted. If 7OH is going to be scheduled as a controlled substance, age limits and other parts of the regulatory framework should not be co-mingled with language related to tobacco products.

We applaud the efforts of Governor Armstrong and state legislators in addressing the use, access, and distribution of kratom during the Special Session. We look forward to an outcome that protects our communities and our youth, while establishing clear, purposeful, and enforceable regulations.

Sincerely,

Cory Hanson
Chairman, Williams County Board of County Commissioners

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