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North Dakota House Judiciary committee

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327B Room - ND State Capitol

Dear Committee,

As the owner of Nuwave Botanicals, I am proud to share my testimony on the long-standing, safe use of kratom—a plant that has been a part of traditional practices for hundreds of years across various cultures, particularly in Southeast Asia. Kratom, when unadulterated and used responsibly, has provided countless individuals with support for their well-being, including natural relief and a sense of balance.

This historical context underscores kratom's potential benefits and the importance of preserving its availability to consumers. However, like any natural product, the key to its safe use lies in ensuring it remains pure and free from harmful adulterants.

Considering this, I advocate strongly for the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) as a more effective and safer alternative to the outright scheduling of kratom. The KCPA provides a regulatory framework that ensures the quality, safety, and labeling of kratom products, protecting consumers from adulterated or mislabeled goods. This approach not only preserves access for responsible users but also upholds public health standards by enforcing strict guidelines on the sale and distribution of kratom. This also requires business like mine to invest in the harvesting and ensure the supply chain remains safe to US standards in the supplement industry. I have invested in proper testing in the jungles of Indonesia and Thailand where this tea grows naturally.

Scheduling kratom as a controlled substance would not only limit access to those who benefit from its traditional and modern uses but could also drive consumers towards unregulated markets, increasing the risk of encountering unsafe products. The KCPA strikes a balance, allowing consumers to make informed choices while ensuring that the kratom available on the market meets stringent safety standards.

As a business owner committed to the well-being of my customers, I urge policymakers to consider the historical safety of unadulterated kratom and support the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. This legislation is a crucial step in safeguarding consumer health while respecting the longstanding cultural heritage of kratom use.

Sincerely,

Chris Jepson