

To whom it may concern,

I understand that some people who aren't familiar with mitragyna speciosa (kratom) may think of it as some unregulated and dangerous drug. This is just not the case!

It is a very safe plant that has helped many thousands, if not millions of people. It personally saved my life from opiate addiction caused by prescribed pain meds for a back injury. This is the story with most kratom users. We don't want to be addicted. Or even to take opiates. I was desperate to find a way to live life without opiates. A friend told me about kratom and to give it a try. It literally saved my life. It got me off opiates, works well for pain management without all the "high" And helps me live a normal life. I don't drink or smoke or do drugs. I take kratom daily to help with pain. I work, take care of my family and am a productive member of society. I cannot stress enough first, the emphasis on freedom! Freedom to choose a safe, natural alternative to harsh pharmaceuticals. And second, the safety and innocence of kratom. I've taken it daily for more than 5 years with no adverse health problems, and on the contrary have been more productive and pain-free for almost a decade.

We are not druggies. This is not a drug. It's a helpful plant. Please consider voting no and taking a more in depth look into this wonderful plant and the amazing ability it has to help people.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Shawn.