

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

House Bill 1566

Andrew Alexis Varvel

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Chairman Patten & Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

Please pass House Bill 1566, a study resolution about kratom.

Kratom is an energy supplement. Kratom is also a natural resource. Kratom is derived from the leaves of *Mitragyna speciosa*, a plant from southeast Asia.

Kratom is used as a stimulant in small doses and as a sedative in large doses. Kratom is also known for inducing liver damage and seizures.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/prescription-drug-abuse/in-depth/kratom/art-20402171>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213323218300306>

Most notably, kratom has been known for inducing erectile dysfunction.

<https://stonegatecenter.com/blog/2020/07/29/kratom-abuse-may-lead-to-erectile-dysfunction-in-men/>

One particular video has been making the rounds on the internet – the story of a man unable to consummate his visit to a brothel due to an overdose of kratom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsLOR2ggmlI>

Although few people know what kratom is, it has become controversial for those who are aware of it. Some people treat it as a wonder drug. Others want it banned. When the Legislature needs more information about a topic before crafting policy and legislation, this is a good time for an interim study to figure out what is going on. This is just what House Bill 1566 proposes to do.

For this reason, please give HB 1566 a **DO PASS** recommendation.