

March 1, 2026

Members of the Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Members of the Ohio House of Representatives,

I am writing to respectfully urge your support for legislation that would protect the legal sale of natural kratom products in the state of Ohio, paired with a robust regulatory framework to ensure consumer safety. Kratom has been used by hundreds of thousands of Ohioans and millions of Americans for a variety of purposes, including managing discomfort, supporting energy and focus, and assisting with the challenges of opioid withdrawal. Thoughtful regulation, rather than prohibition, is the most effective path forward.

Ohioans who rely on kratom deserve access to safe, tested, and clearly labeled products. The way to achieve that goal is not through an outright ban — which would simply drive consumers toward unregulated sources and gray markets — but through the implementation of sensible, enforceable standards. Several states have already adopted versions of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, which establishes manufacturing standards, requires accurate labeling, prohibits the sale of adulterated products, and restricts sales to minors. Ohio has an opportunity to follow this proven model.

Regulation provides meaningful protections that a ban simply cannot. Under a regulatory framework, products must meet purity standards and cannot contain dangerous contaminants or adulterants. Retailers would be required to verify the age of purchasers, protecting minors. Manufacturers and vendors would be held accountable to clear legal standards. Consumers would have the information they need to make informed choices. These are outcomes that serve the public interest — and they are only achievable when the product remains legal and subject to oversight.

It is also worth noting that many Ohioans have found kratom to be a meaningful support tool during the ongoing opioid crisis. While kratom is not a pharmaceutical treatment and should not be characterized as one, numerous individuals have shared that access to kratom has helped them reduce or eliminate dependence on more dangerous substances. Eliminating access to kratom could inadvertently push vulnerable individuals toward far more harmful alternatives. A regulated kratom market is a harm-reduction measure as much as it is a consumer protection measure.

I respectfully ask that the Ohio House of Representatives take the following steps: support legislation to protect the continued legal availability of natural kratom products in Ohio; establish a clear regulatory framework modeled on the Kratom Consumer Protection Act; require independent lab testing and transparent labeling of all kratom

products sold in the state; and prohibit the sale of kratom to individuals under the age of 18.

Ohio can be a leader in responsible kratom policy — one that prioritizes consumer safety, respects personal freedom, and keeps a vulnerable population away from the shadows of the unregulated market. I urge you to support a regulated, accessible kratom market for the people of Ohio.

Respectfully,

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