

2 March 2026

Dear Ohio House Agriculture Committee Members,

I am resident of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, writing in support of H.B. No. 587. The bill, as designed, should be able to keep natural leaf kratom legal in Ohio and limit access to, if not outright ban the synthetic concentrated kratom products of 7-hydroxymitragynine, or 7-OH. These latter should be banned, in my opinion, for these 7-OH products are highly potent compounds that involve less than 1% of the natural kratom leaf, yet still are mistakenly called kratom.

It is the toxicity of 7-OH synthetic products that is disturbing. Recently, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health on October 10, 2025, advised that the safest thing to do is avoid using 7-OH and other synthetic so-called kratom-related products. Ohio H.B. 587 could limit access, or even ban, these synthetic products. The Attorney General of Georgia similarly issued a warning on Nover 13, 2025, about the dangers of products containing 7-OH—the synthetic substances that are flooding gas stations, vape shops, and convenience stores.

H.B. 587 will benefit natural leaf consumers by assuring that natural leaf kratom will be legally available to adults. Natural kratom has helped many Ohioans and consumers elsewhere. Regulating not banning natural leaf kratom is what consumers in Ohio deserve. Such regulation also will serve to education Ohioans on the distinction between natural leaf kratom versus the synthetic kratom-in-name-only products. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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