



## AMERICAN KRATOM ASSOCIATION

**STATEMENT OF MAC HADDOW, SENIOR FELLOW ON PUBLIC POLICY  
KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – HB 2188  
February 1, 2023**

Members of the Committee, I offer this testimony on HB 2188, titled the Kansas Kratom Consumer Protection Act. My name is Mac Haddow, and I serve as the Senior Fellow on Public Policy for the American Kratom Association (AKA), representing the 11 - 15 million kratom consumers in the United States.

The AKA supports the principles in this proposed bill, and when it was first proposed in this body previously it was based on what we believed was the most appropriate regulatory framework for kratom. But intervening emerging science and experience in those states where the KCPA has been enacted have changed the views on this proposed legislative framework for regulating kratom.

First, the scientific understanding of kratom has changed significantly. Research funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has shown that kratom has a significant harm reduction role for those who struggle with addictions that often lead to deaths. That science has informed the discussion about the safety profile of kratom. When pure non-adulterated kratom is used responsibly, it is not dangerously addictive, nor does it cause deaths.

For the millions of kratom consumers who use this plant for its energy boost and increased focus, and for those who use it at higher doses for relieving anxiety and reducing feelings of depression, those consumers need to be protected from dangerously adulterated kratom products just as much as those who used kratom to replace dangerous opioids.

Second, the experience in the seven states that have enacted the KCPA has shown that it is not necessary to enact the more restrictive regulatory scheme as is outlined in HB 2188. We believe HB 2084 benefits from the experience of those states. Importantly, HB 2084 is a less restrictive regulatory scheme and does not require the significant administrative burden on the Department of Agriculture as is required by HB 2188.

The foundational principles remain the same for each of these bills:

- Kratom products need to be manufactured using good manufacturing processes (GMPS) required for food products.
- Kratom cannot be adulterated with dangerous drugs that would put consumers at risk for serious adverse events or deaths.

- None of the component parts of the kratom plant used in a kratom product can be synthesized or artificially enhanced, including the metabolite 7-hydroxymitragynine that in its naturally occurring form is safe, but dangerous if synthesized.
- All kratom products must be labeled properly to allow consumers to know all of the ingredients including the recommended serving size and the number of servings in a package.
- Kratom should be restricted for sale to minors.

We think the burden for the enforcing the enacted regulations on kratom should be on the kratom processors, not Kansas taxpayers. We urge this Committee to support HB 2084 as the preferred legislative vehicle for the Kansas Kratom Consumer Protection Act.

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