

Jenn Lauder, PDX Aromatics
Kratom Informational Hearing
Legislative Committee Days

January 15, 2020

Good afternoon and thank you for joining us today. My fellow panelists and I appreciate the Legislature's desire to learn more about kratom and to consider reasonable regulations for the kratom industry that would prioritize the health and safety of Oregon's citizens.

My name is Jenn Lauder, and I am the Director of Marketing and Advocacy for PDX Aromatics, a small, family-owned botanicals company based in Portland. We sell natural products such as coffee, teas, and essential oils online. We're also the largest kratom vendor in the state and the first in the nation to earn GMP Qualified Vendor status from the American Kratom Association for demonstrating our adherence to Good Manufacturing Practices as defined by the FDA.

The health and safety of our customers is our primary concern, a concern that is shared by all legitimate, responsible kratom vendors. We strongly believe, based on abundant historical and scientific evidence, that kratom is a safe botanical. But we also know that proper processes must be in place to ensure the safety and purity of these products for the estimated 15 million Americans who include kratom as a part of their daily routine.

Since its founding in 2010, PDX Aromatics has been committed to quality assurance and consumer safety. Over the past four years we have become an industry leader in compliance, investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in physical plant upgrades, staff training, and enhanced lab testing procedures. Our warehouse is an OHA-registered dry foods facility, and we are regularly third-party audited for current Good Manufacturing Practices.

This means that, among other things, we implement:

- Environmental controls and rigorous sanitation and handling procedures,
- Comprehensive lab testing to guarantee purity and identify any possible contamination before products are introduced to the market,
- Proper labeling that accurately displays the identity of the product and its ingredients,
- Responsible marketing that avoids any therapeutic or medical claims,
- Age restrictions that prevent the sale of our products to minors.

PDX Aromatics applauds the American Kratom Association's efforts to promote GMP compliance, and we are encouraged to see the kratom industry move toward adopting these standards on a large scale. The majority of kratom companies take their customers' safety seriously and are committed to responsible practices such as the ones I described.

Our company would like to see the few bad actors who endanger public health put out of business as much as you would. We support reasonable regulation in our industry and welcome the standards and safeguards that the proposed Kratom Consumer Protection Act would require of kratom vendors.

Thank you again for your time and your consideration of kratom and its place in the lives of Oregonians. I urge you to pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act during this short session so that kratom consumers in our state can be protected from contaminated and misbranded products, and so that responsible and compliant businesses such as ours can continue to provide our customers with safe, pure products.

I'm happy to answer any questions about kratom, its consumers, or our company's efforts to become compliant with Good Manufacturing Practices.

Respectfully,

Jenn Lauder

Director of Marketing & Advocacy, PDX Aromatics

Portland, OR 97227

jenn@pdxaromatics.com

443.977.3605