



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1005-3

April 5, 2019

Honorable Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

The American Kratom Association (AKA), strongly supports the dash 3 amendment to Senate Bill 1005, which will regulate the processing and sale of Kratom.

Kratom is a natural botanical in the coffee family. Specifically, the dried leaf of the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree is commonly consumed as a tea or finely ground powder in supplement capsules. Kratom has its origins in Southeast Asia where it has been used for thousands of years for traditional purposes. More than 20 years ago, Kratom came to the United States, and Kratom consumption has been increasing. Over five million Americans utilize kratom as a nutritional supplement to help ease discomfort from things like fatigue, pain, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorders, and to help wean themselves off of dangerous opiates.

Typically, one may ingest Kratom in a similar way many of us take supplements for support to address a given ailment, or to promote physical or mental health. Kratom is not a treatment or a cure, it is one of many natural options Americans use to promote a general sense of well-being.

The AKA supports Senate Bill 1005-3 which provides appropriate regulations to ensure the safety and purity of Kratom products. The AKA is committed to working with state and federal regulators to share information and collaborate in the development of regulations that will protect consumers from adulteration and contamination of Kratom products.

Currently, no state regulations exist around the processing and sale of Kratom. This has led to some processors selling a product that has not been properly tested, labeled, and therefore may not be safe for consumption. Some products have also been labeled as Kratom, which are substantially different than the original product.

The -3 amendment seeks to create the following regulations for the processing and sale of Kratom in Oregon:

- You must be over 21 years of age to buy kratom products;
- Kratom products must have proper content labeling;
- Kratom products must be tested to ensure the product is safe for human consumption;
- Kratom processors cannot adulterate the product with non-Kratom substances;
- Kratom processors must register with the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Respectfully,

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American Kratom Association

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