

Local Government Committee Packet

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

LOCAL LAWS		
LG/R	T-4	A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF RENSSELAER PROHIBITING THE SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM IN RENSSELAER COUNTY Motion Made By: Seconded By: In favor: Opposed: Notes:
INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS		
COMMITTEE	RESOLUTION	TITLE
LG/C/B/R	G/16	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH TOWN HALL STREAMS FOR LIVE STREAMING SERVICES OF PUBLIC FORUMS AND MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE - LEGISLATURE Motion Made By: Seconded By: In favor: Opposed: Notes:

Local Law Filing

New York State Department of State
Division of Corporations, State Records and Uniform Commercial Code
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12231-0001
www.dos.state.ny.us/corps

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County of Rensselaer

Local Law No. T-4 of the year 2026

A local law of the County of Rensselaer Prohibiting the Sale or Distribution of Kratom in Rensselaer County

By: Patire, Hoffman, Loveridge, Film, Choquette, Bayly, Grant, Casale, Herrington, Maloney and Wysocki

Be it enacted by the County Legislature of the
(Name of Legislative Body)

County of Rensselaer as follows:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

The County Legislature adopts this Local Law pursuant to the New York State Constitution Article IX.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE AND INTENT

The opioid-like plant *Mitragyna speciosa*, and parts thereof, are commonly known as “Kratom.” Kratom can be consumed in several forms, including as a tea, powder, or pill. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has warned of Kratom use due to risks of serious adverse effects and has issued an alert on consuming dietary supplements and ingredients that contain Kratom. The FDA has found that Kratom has a high potential for abuse, and poses an imminent hazard to public health, safety, and welfare.

This Local Law prohibits the sale of Kratom in Rensselaer County and authorizes Rensselaer County Health Department officials and law enforcement agencies to conduct regulatory inspections of entities suspected of Kratom sale, and to pursue enforcement remedies against such entities as is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to promote the public good.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Local Law, the following terms shall mean:

“Kratom” shall mean the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*, and parts thereof, as well as products containing mytragynine, and the products derived from *Mitragyna speciosa* leaves, and any synthetic derivations thereof.

“Person” shall mean any individual, company, partnership, corporation, limited partnership, joint venture or other legal entity.

“Product derived from *Mitragyna speciosa* leaves” shall mean any substance created directly from Kratom, or its naturally occurring alkaloids, through extraction, isolation, concentration, chemical conversion, synthesis, or modification, and any synthetic derivations thereof.

“Retailer” shall mean any Person that sells, offers for sale, or maintains Kratom products.

SECTION 4. SALE PROHIBITED

It is prohibited to distribute or sell Kratom in Rensselaer County. This prohibition does not apply to the sale or distribution of FDA-approved Kratom and/or Kratom dispensed by a licensed pharmacist consistent with a prescription from a licensed physician.

SECTION 5. INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Rensselaer County Public Health Department and all law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction in Rensselaer County are hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this Local Law, including the ability to conduct regulatory inspections and compliance checks of any suspected Retailer within the County of Rensselaer and any vehicle used by such Retailer. Such compliance checks and regulatory inspections may occur during routine facility checks, pursuant to a complaint, or as part of a criminal investigation.

If Kratom is found during a compliance check, inspection, or criminal investigation, it shall be immediately confiscated. One year after a finding of a violation of this Local Law, such confiscated Kratom shall be destroyed.

SECTION 6. PENALTIES

Any Person that violates the terms of this Local Law shall receive a notice of violation from the Rensselaer County Health Department setting forth the charge(s), the total amount of Kratom confiscated, maximum civil penalty, related surcharges and hearing date.

Any Person that engages in the unlawful distribution or sale of Kratom shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per item confiscated.

Each subsequent violation of this Local Law shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per item confiscated.

Willful violation of this Local Law may result in criminal prosecution under New York State Public Health Law §12-b.

SECTION 7. VALIDITY AND SEVERABILITY

Should any word, section, clause, paragraph, sentence, part, or provision of this Local Law be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity of any other part hereof.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect upon its filing with the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Local Law ADOPTED by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

September 8, 2026

Approved by the County Executive:

Dated: _____, 2026

Steven F. McLaughlin
County Executive

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO. 2026136

RE: LOCAL LAW No. ____ of 2026 PROHIBITING THE SALE AND
DISTRIBUTION OF CONCENTRATED AND SYNTHETIC 7-
HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE (7-OH) KRATOM PRODUCTS IN
DUTCHESS COUNTY

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, MUNN, and KAUL offer the following and move
its adoption:

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the County of Dutchess adopt Local Law No. ____ of
2026 which has been submitted this day for consideration by said Legislature.

LOCAL LAW NO. ____ of 2026

RE: A LOCAL LAW PROHIBITING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF
CONCENTRATED AND SYNTHETIC 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE (7-OH)
KRATOM PRODUCTS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess, State of New York, as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

Kratom, a tropical tree (*Mitragyna speciosa*) native to Southeast Asia, contains multiple compounds (including mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine) that act upon the same receptors in the brain as opioid drugs. These compounds produce similar effects as opioids, such as sedation, nausea, vomiting, constipation, physical dependence and withdrawal, and respiratory depression that may lead to death. There are no drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) that contain kratom, and the FDA warns that kratom is not safe for use as a dietary supplement, citing the risk of serious adverse events such as liver toxicity, seizures, and substance use disorder. While 7-hydroxymitragynine occurs only in trace amounts in the natural kratom leaf, concentrated and synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (“7-OH”) products now sold in retail stores contain this compound at levels far exceeding those found in the plant, producing potent opioid-like effects and a heightened risk of dependence, overdose, and death.

The Legislature finds that, to protect the health and safety of its residents, products containing dangerously elevated concentrations of 7-hydroxymitragynine should not be sold or distributed in Dutchess County.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY.

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to New York Municipal Home Rule Law § 10(1)(ii)(a)(12), as it relates to the protection, order, conduct, safety, health, and well-being of Dutchess County residents, and pursuant to Dutchess County Charter § 2.031, as the health and safety of Dutchess County residents is a subject of County concern.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

(a) “Kratom” means any part of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*, whether growing or not; any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant; all chemical compounds and alkaloids derived from such plant, including but not limited to mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine; and all synthetic and semi-synthetic derivatives of such plant, including but not limited to MGM-15, MGM-16, and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, or any structural analogue of any such compound, derivative, mixture or alkaloid.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

(b) “Kratom Product” means any product, good, article, or item containing, blended with, and/or derived from Kratom, including but not limited to extracts, tinctures, beverages, powders, capsules, tablets, foods, gummies, vapes, and prepackaged retail items.

(c) “Person” means any individual, business, company, firm, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, joint venture, corporation, not-for-profit corporation, limited liability company, estate, trust, or any other legal entity.

(d) “Prescription” means an official New York State prescription, an electronic prescription, an oral prescription, or an out-of-state prescription as those terms are used in Article 33 of the New York Public Health Law and Article 137 of the New York Education Law.

(e) “Prohibited 7-OH Product” means any Kratom or Kratom Product that contains 7-hydroxymitragynine at a level that exceeds two percent (2%) of the total alkaloids or one milligram (1 mg) per serving.

SECTION 4. SALE OR DISTRIBUTION PROHIBITED.

No Person may sell, offer for sale, or otherwise distribute a Prohibited 7-OH Product in the County of Dutchess to any other Person. This prohibition applies to any Person, including any online platform, wherever located, and a sale, offer for sale, or distribution shall be deemed to occur in the County of Dutchess whenever a Prohibited 7-OH Product is delivered or shipped to an address within the County. This prohibition does not apply to the sale or distribution of a Prohibited 7-OH Product pursuant to a Prescription issued by a Person licensed, authorized, or otherwise permitted in New York State to issue a Prescription. This prohibition will not apply to the sale or distribution of a Prohibited 7-OH Product if that product is approved by the FDA. Liability under this section is strict; it shall not be a defense to a violation that the Person did not know, or had no reason to know, that a product constituted a Prohibited 7-OH Product.

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

This Local Law shall be enforced by the Dutchess County Department of Health. The Commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations and to take any and all other actions reasonable and necessary to enforce this law in accordance with the authority enumerated in the Dutchess County Sanitary Code including, but not limited to, conducting inspections; investigating all claims and violations; issuing all notices and orders; conducting hearings; and any other processes that may be necessary in the enforcement of this law.

Any Person that sells, offers for sale, or distributes a Prohibited 7-OH Product to another Person shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for a first violation, and not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each subsequent violation. For purposes of this section, a violation shall be considered a subsequent violation if it occurs within thirty-six (36) months of a prior violation by the same Person. Where any such sale, offer for sale, or distribution is made to a person under twenty-one (21) years of age, the maximum civil

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

penalty for that violation shall be increased by five hundred dollars (\$500). Each sale, offer for sale, or distribution of a Prohibited 7-OH Product shall constitute a separate violation. These penalties do not apply in those circumstances in which the sale or distribution of a Prohibited 7-OH Product is not prohibited by this Local Law.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgement shall be rendered.

SECTION 7. REVERSE PREEMPTION

This article shall be null and void on the day that statewide legislation goes into effect incorporating either the same or substantially similar provisions as are contained in this local law or in the event that a pertinent New York State or United States of America administrative agency issues and promulgates regulations preempting such action by the County of Dutchess.

SECTION 8. SEQRA DETERMINATION.

It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, ECL § 8-0101, et seq., and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617, that the adoption of this Local Law is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of 6 NYCRR §§ 617.5(c)(26) and (33), and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant impact on the environment and no further review is required.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

☐ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

APPROPRIATION RESOLUTIONS

(To be completed by the requesting department)

Total Current Year Cost \$ _15,000_____

Total Current Year Revenue \$ _0_____
and Source

Source of County Funds (check one):

☒ Existing Appropriations

☐ Contingency

☐ Transfer of

☐ Additional Appropriations

☐ Other (explain)

Existing
Appropriations

Identify Line Item(s):

Related Expenses: Amount \$ _15,000__

Nature/Reason:

Anticipated Savings to County:
_____0_____

Net County Cost (this year): __\$15,000__
Over Five Years: __\$225,000__

Are there any costs associated with this resolution that impact any municipality within Dutchess County? _NO_ (If YES, provide detail here or separately)

Additional Comments / Explanation:

Health Department staff will need to perform outreach and education as well as surveillance to implement the proposed Local Law. The annual cost is projected at \$45,000 with a prorated amount of \$15,000 for this year.

Prepared by: _Anthony Ruggiero / Kristofer Munn_ Prepared On: _7/29/2026_

Charette, Jessica

From: Kelli McCann <kellianne.mccann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: In support of banning kratom in Rensselaer County

Warning: Unusual sender <kellianne.mccann@gmail.com>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Members of the Rensselaer County Legislature,

My name is Kelli McCann. I am writing in support of banning kratom in its entirety in Rensselaer County. My oldest child and only son, Benjamin, died from acute mitragynine intoxication on 09/12/2024. Benjamin used kratom to manage pain from psoriatic arthritis, believing it was a safe, natural alternative to prescription medications — as harmless as coffee. This misconception cost him his life and has left our family with indescribable heartbreak.

Although I reside in Montana, my advocacy for banning kratom extends nationally because this is not just a state issue; it is a matter of humanity. Kratom is sold and shipped across the United States, and my son received his supply from an out-of-state vendor.

Benjamin and I discussed kratom once. He described it in a way that made me think it was like green tea; kratom is often referred to as "tea." I had no concerns. I was shocked to learn the truth about kratom when I began researching it after Benjamin's death. It was upsetting to discover that many states did not act when the DEA attempted to classify kratom as a controlled substance in 2016. Since then, the situation has escalated, with more dangerous derivatives, rising deaths, addiction, and adverse health effects. I have connected with many families who have suffered the same devastation of losing a loved one to kratom.

Regulation alone will not protect the public and may even foster a false sense of safety and the misconception that kratom-related issues have been resolved. Kratom includes mitragynine, 7-hydroxymitragynine and 40+ additional alkaloids. If it is not banned its entirety, access to all the alkaloids remains as well as the ability to continue creating more dangerous derivatives.

I am including links with further information regarding kratom and its industry. The first one includes a letter signed by eleven state senators to the Commissioner of the Food and Drugs encouraging consideration for kratom to be banned in its entirety. The second one is from a site created by a pharmacist who advocates for kratom to be banned. The fourth and fifth links include statements regarding kratom from Dr. Christopher McCurdy – a researcher in Florida. He is believed to be aligned with the kratom industry but his comments in the following links support that there is much not known about kratom. The seventh link is a brief podcast by Jermaine Galloway (Tall Cop Says Stop) that puts the kratom issue into perspective so well. The last one is an article I interviewed for to bring awareness in my own state.

- [Ricketts' Letter Calls on FDA to Address Kratom Scheduling Loophole - Senator Pete Ricketts](#)
- [Kratom Briefing for Lawmakers | Mothers Against Herbal Abuse](#)
- [The law and the profits: Inside kratom's political underbelly | Courthouse News Service](#)
- [Examining kratom's growing controversy, use in U.S.](#)
- nccih.nih.gov/training/videolectures/22/3

- [Deadly Dose - A Tampa Bay Times investigation into the kratom industry](#)
- [The Tides Are Shifting on Krat... - Tall Cop Says Stop™ - Boots On The Ground - Apple Podcasts](#)
- [Parent warns of the dangers of kratom after son's death](#)

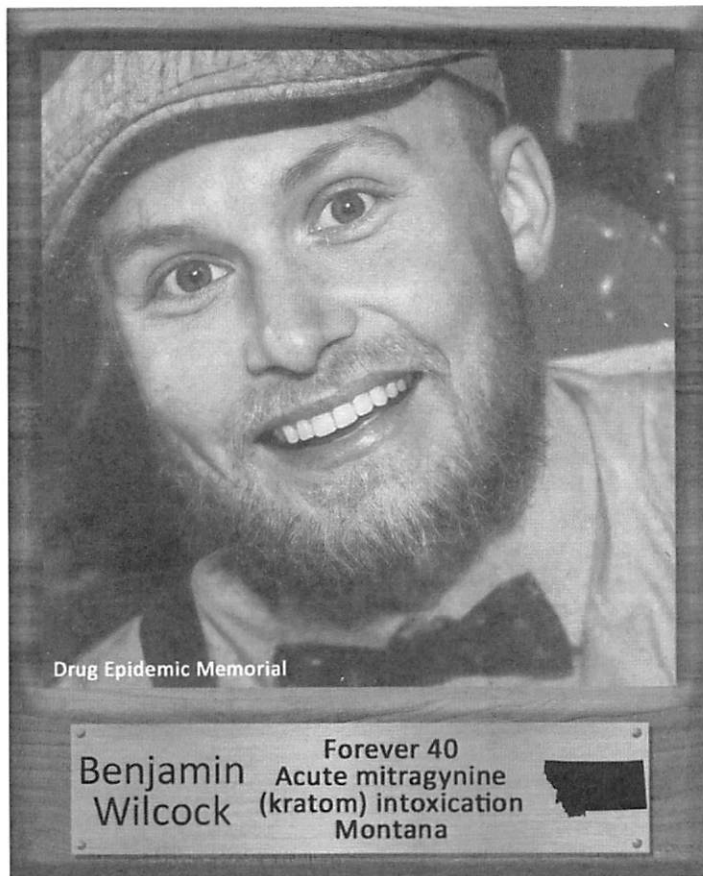
The American Kratom Association is defending and protecting the kratom industry without regard for those who have died because of this substance. One of their lobbyists often discredits coroners and medical examiners, claiming our loved ones did not die from kratom. The Association played a significant role in stopping the 2016 DEAs ban effort. This decision cost many families, including mine, beyond measure. The DEA continues to list kratom as a "drug of concern".

Please support scheduling/banning kratom in its entirety and protect Rensselaer County citizens from the devastation kratom has caused many individuals and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kelli McCann (Benjamin's mom)





Charette, Jessica

From: Wendy Chamberlain <wchamberlain12@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 3:48 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: T-4 (Intro) of 2026 — Please Protect Rensselaer County From All Kratom Products

Warning: Unusual sender <wchamberlain12@icloud.com>

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Dear Members of the Rensselaer County Legislature,

My name is Wendy Chamberlain, and I am the founder and president of Kratom Danger Awareness, Inc., a national nonprofit dedicated to educating families, communities, and policymakers about the risks associated with kratom.

I am writing regarding T-4 (Intro) of 2026, the proposed local law prohibiting the sale and distribution of kratom in Rensselaer County.

I strongly support Rensselaer County taking a comprehensive approach that addresses the kratom plant itself, *Mitragyna speciosa* and mitragynine, along with 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), extracts, concentrates, synthetic and semi-synthetic products, and emerging kratom derivatives.

My reason for becoming involved in this issue is deeply personal.

I lost my only son, Joseph, on August 30, 2020. He was just 38 years old, a father of three and a business owner.

Joseph was not using today's concentrated 7-OH tablets, shots, or newly synthesized kratom derivatives. He was using whole-leaf kratom powder, which he used for energy and focus.

One evening, Joseph sat down in his recliner to watch television. He never woke up.

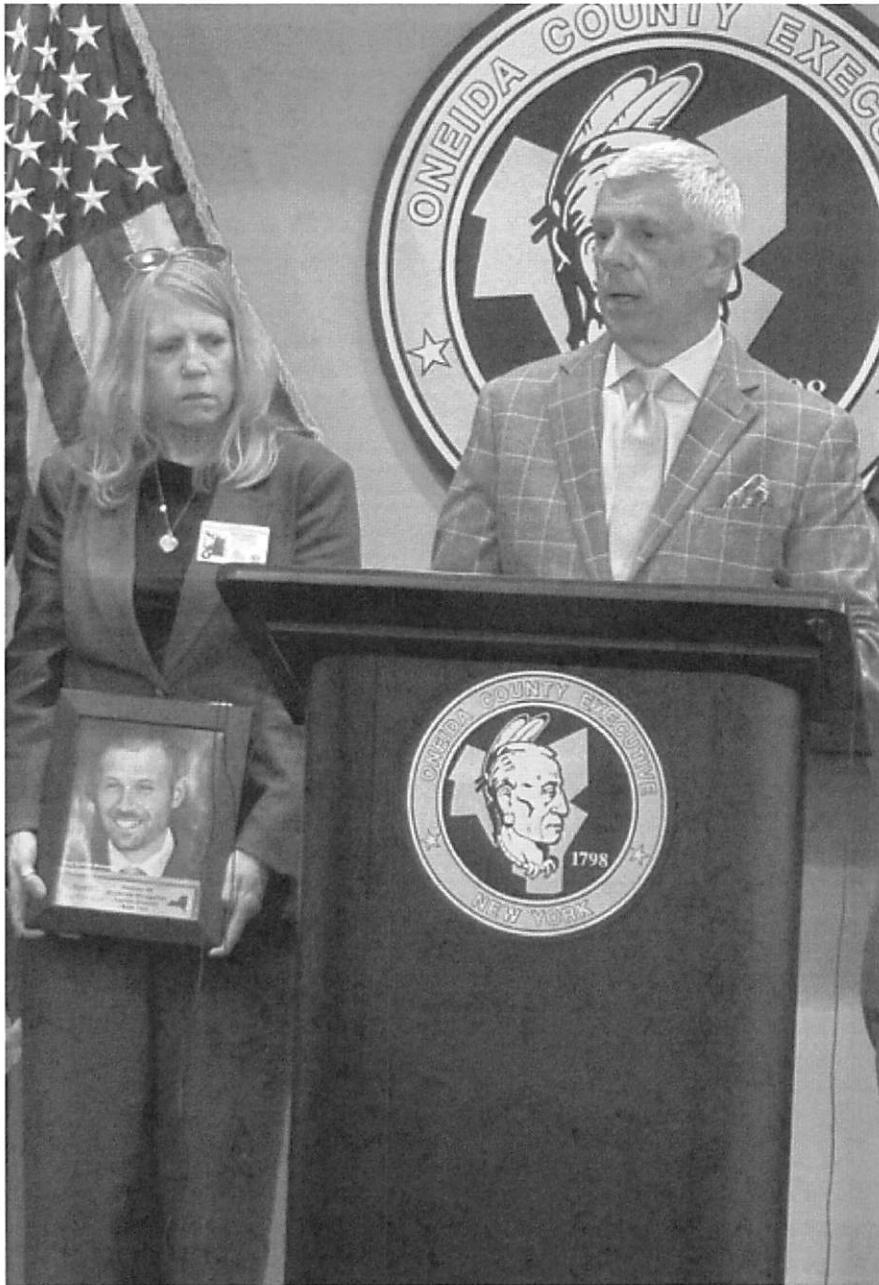
His death certificate and autopsy attributed his death to accidental mitragynine toxicity. Mitragynine was the substance identified in his toxicology.

Joseph died years before the current wave of highly concentrated 7-OH products became the focus of national attention.

This is why I believe it is so important that local governments not address 7-OH while overlooking the underlying kratom plant and mitragynine.

Rensselaer County would not be standing alone in taking comprehensive action.

Oneida County has already implemented a public health order prohibiting the sale of kratom and kratom-derived products and has introduced local legislation intended to make those protections permanent.



Nassau County has also enacted legislation prohibiting the sale and distribution of kratom and products containing kratom.

Oswego County is also actively examining the kratom issue, with further local consideration underway.

These actions demonstrate that communities across New York are increasingly asking whether addressing only the newest concentrated derivatives goes far enough.

I fully support removing concentrated 7-OH, mitragynine pseudoindoxyl and other emerging derivatives from the marketplace. But those products are not where this problem began.

Families were losing loved ones before today's 7-OH marketplace existed.

Please do not create a distinction that unintentionally tells consumers that because something is called "natural kratom," it has therefore been established as safe.

I respectfully ask you to carefully consider my son's case and the experiences of other families as you consider T-4. I would be grateful for the opportunity to provide supporting documentation, including information relating to Joseph's death, as well as additional information collected through Kratom Danger Awareness.

Thank you for taking this issue seriously and for considering comprehensive action to protect Rensselaer County residents.

Please distribute this correspondence to every member of the Rensselaer County Legislature and include it in the legislative record relating to T-4 (Intro) of 2026.

I can send my sons toxicology upon request and a copy of Oneida County's Ordinance

Sincerely,

Wendy Chamberlain
(315)886-2965
Founder & President
Kratom Danger Awareness, Inc.

<https://www.kratomdangerawareness.org/>

Charette, Jessica

From: Susan Eppard <switchinz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 3:46 PM
To: RenscoLeg
Subject: my son died from kratom leaf powder
Attachments: Matthews-autopsy.pdf; Michigan Matthew Eller 22 Susan Eppard.JPG

Warning: Unusual sender <switchinz@yahoo.com>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Please distribute my email to all Rensselaer County legislatures.

I support banning all forms of kratom.

My name is Susan Eppard. I am the mother of Matthew Eller, who died at just 22 years old from the toxic effects of whole-leaf kratom. Matthew was a healthy young man with no underlying medical conditions. His autopsy and toxicology reports were entirely clear of prescription medications, illegal substances, or alcohol. His cause of death was explicitly ruled as the toxic effects of mitragynine, the primary alkaloid found naturally in the kratom leaf. He did not ingest 7-OH or semi-synthetic derivatives; he was killed by the least potent, natural form of this plant available on the U.S. market.

I am sharing my son's story because his preventable death represents a systemic public health failure. Kratom remains a dangerous, highly addictive drug sold nationwide with almost no government oversight. Because testing is expensive, the industry is left to police itself, resulting in a marketplace with no dosing standards, no purity requirements, and deeply deceptive labeling. While reputable retailers and major payment processors refuse to touch these products, opportunistic vendors exploit loopholes and mislabel packages to sell them openly at local gas stations, smoke shops, and online platforms with virtually no age verification.

For vital information on the truth about kratom please visit: [Antikratom.org](https://antikratom.org)

A growing number of states—including Louisiana, Connecticut, Kansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Vermont—have already banned kratom including North Dakota via Executive Order, and Kentucky ban goes into effect in July of 2027. Others are actively pursuing total bans. Industry advocates frequently argue that restrictions will push users to harder substances, but this speculative, fear-based claim should not dictate policy. Effective public health measures must address documented, real-world harms. The data is clear: kratom causes severe dependency, emergency room visits, and tragic fatalities. Matthew's autopsy is undeniable proof of that reality. I urge you to take immediate action to ban this lethal drug and prevent other families from burying their children.

Tens of thousands of US kratom vendors heavily fund advocacy groups like the American Kratom Association and the Global Kratom Coalition. Utilizing a network of aggressive lawyers and lobbyists, these organizations fiercely oppose all product bans and strict regulations. To maintain market legality, they launch massive email campaigns targeting local municipalities, regardless of whether they have a local connection to the community.

There's another urgent reason to act beyond the harms caused by leaf kratom itself. Kratom is the necessary ingredient to produce far more potent, semi-synthetic compounds such as 7-hydroxymitragynine and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl. Those substances require kratom to be made.

If kratom remains readily available to anyone with internet access, we will not only continue to see deaths from whole-leaf products, we will fuel the creation of even more dangerous drugs.

Compare how we handle other precursor or risky substances. Sudafed is not addictive and is far less harmful than kratom, yet it is kept behind pharmacy counters, sold in limited amounts, requires ID, and is logged for law enforcement inspection because it is used to make methamphetamine. If we can control access to legal, low-risk precursors used to make dangerous drugs, we can and should control access to kratom, which has already been linked directly to deaths.

Age restrictions are not sufficient. Most Kratom documented deaths were of people over 21. Limits on youth access will not address the larger problem of adults buying unregulated, mislabeled, and increasingly potent kratom products online. Nor will voluntary industry standards solve it when documents and payment processors already indicate retailers are circumventing safeguards.

Kratom is being deceptively added to seltzers, gummies, honey stix and candies. Vendors give initial doses away for free to hook consumers.

I personally ordered Kratom through a link on the American Kratom Association's website and was sent free product to Florida, a state with age restrictions, no credit card required, no proof of age beyond clicking a button. I gave Senator Morris of Louisiana this information, they sent him free kratom, he mentioned it in a hearing, and Mac Haddow of the AKA's response was, "we don't control the marketing practices". They have 40 plus Kratom dealers listed on their website, and at least 6 of these are in Kratom wrongful death lawsuits, yet the AKA is unable or unwilling to monitor them. View The AKA's own Mac Haddow confessed they don't even monitor their own kratom dealers: Louisiana kratom ban hearing with Haddow's confession: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aT4fuOEwng8> minute mark 4.50

The American Kratom Associations leading lobbyist Mac Haddow falsely claimed in a meeting in Wisconsin that the Kratom ban in Vermont was repealed in an attempt to dupe lawmakers remove the Wisconsin Kratom Ban. <https://youtu.be/s3uNAUieHh0?si=oILbhdWFSBcv1ezb> minute mark 15:57

Every death like Matthew's is preventable. Banning kratom will not erase the pain that my family carries, but it can prevent future families from suffering the same devastating loss. Please support a ban on all forms of kratom and measures to enforce it. Protect our communities. Protect our children and our young adults. Remember my Son Matthew, when you consider what action to take because he should have lived.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Toxicology/autopsy results and Matthew's photo are attached.

Sincerely,

Susan Eppard (Matthew's Mom)
231-286-4498
switchinz@yahoo.com

Charette, Jessica

From: Susan Cave <williamscottcave@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 8:19 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; khoffman@renscom; RenscoLeg
Subject: Support for kratom ban in New York

Warning: Unusual sender <williamscottcave@outlook.com>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Please distribute this email to all Rensselaer County legislatures. Thank you

Thank you for addressing the very real danger of raw leaf kratom in Rensselaer County New York,

Please don't be fooled by the testimonies you will hear from the pro-kratom community and all of the AKA, GKC, HART lobbyist who actually write the laws that govern its own 2 billion dollar kratom industry.

Regulating this industry will not stop deaths. The entire leaf needs to be banned because this is the source and only source for dangerous semi synthetic derivates like 7-OH, Mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM 15 and MGM 16. Please don't be confused when people try to convince you that raw kratom is harmless and completely different from substances like 7-OH, pseudoindoxly, MGM15 and 16.

People are not only dying from dangerous semisynthetic derivatives made from raw kratom leaf but people are dying from raw leaf kratom alone. Most deaths involve other drugs whether legal/prescribed or illegal.. This should not deflect from the fact that people are becoming addicted and dying from this substance.

The pro kratom community likes to spin the truth and blame the "other substance/s" or call the victim irresponsible, defying the knowledge and expertise of medical examiners and trained medical professionals. Please push this bill through. Please make it happen.

My 32 yo son, William Cave, died while wade fishing at St Marks light house in Wakulla County FLORIDA on 20th April 2024. Witnesses who were fishing in a small boat close to shore saw Will fall face forward and not get up,,there was no struggle or attempt to get up. By the time they got to him and pulled him to shore, he was gone. William was wearing a go-pro camera which recorded his death. When Williams' toxicology and medical examiner report came back, it showed Will had accidentally drowned and the only contributing cause was mitragynine (Kratom) toxicity. My son did not use illicit drugs or drink alcohol...or anything like that. He took kratom to supplement his prescribed antidepressant meds in hopes of feeling better. He thought it was safe because it is marketed as safe.

Since his death, I have been on a mission to advocate for change by educating lawmakers at the state and local levels of government, by providing support for other families who have lost a loved one from kratom and by reaching the public through news/ social media outlets. I am supported in my advocacy work by kratom Danger Awareness, a non-profit dedicated to protecting communities and spreading awareness.

Thank You, Susan Cave, Mother of William

Thank You,
Susan Cave, mother of William S. Cave...forever 32
williamscottcave@outlook.com

WHY REGULATING KRATOM WONT WORK and WHY JUST REMOVING DANGEROUS DERIVATIVES MADE FROM KRATOM WONT WORK

- 1 Kratom does not have a safety profile or standardized dosing.
- 2 Labels and age restrictions do not change Kratom's pharmacology.
- 3 States that have passed regulation laws continue to see kratom-involved deaths.
- 4 Raw kratom alone causes deaths as proven by toxicology reports and medical examiner reports!
- 5 There are over 40 alkaloids in raw kratom and still not a complete understanding of the two main ones—mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH).
- 6 The kratom plant and products made from kratom are extremely variable in their make-up. Every leaf is different depending where it is grown overseas, the environmental growing conditions, how it is harvested, how long it is cured, how long it is allowed to ferment and the manufacturer's processing technique.
- 7 Mitragynine found in the kratom leaf is metabolized naturally inside the body into 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). Because of this fact, you cannot say 7-hydroxymitragynine is a completely different substance than raw ground-up kratom: they are one and the same.
8. It is a known fact that kratom manufacturers, retailers, users and advocates say kratom is a do-it-yourself remedy for everything from pain, cough and depression to diarrhea, and addictions. Kratom is marketed as a drug and bought as a drug even though the FDA states "Therefore, kratom is not lawfully marketed in the U.S. as a drug product, a dietary supplement, or a food additive in conventional food."
9. There are Online forums, right now, full of stories of people who became addicted to something they thought was going to help them. There are websites like "**Grow Kratom**" that actually warns customers, "to NOT use their products if you're subject to any form of drug testing."
The Single Ascending Dose (SAD) clinical study, often cited by industry advocates, was an early-phase pharmacology experiment, not a safety study. The study was not intended to determine long-term safety or evaluate real-world use patterns.
- 10 Regulations cannot keep pace with the 1.5 billion \$ kratom industry.

11. Bad actors will always look to enter a market, find a product they can exploit, re-create it and synthesize it to become a product more addictive and deadly than ever before. Right now, on social media you can easily find links and websites with people giving step-by-step instructions on how to make 7-OH from raw kratom. Any Regulation, no matter how strongly written, cannot stop the industry's manipulation of alkaloids, cannot stop overdoses, and cannot prevent more families from suffering the loss mine has endured

12. Testimonies from kratom advocates and consumers tell how thanks to kratom, they are now able to be productive members of society, or they are no longer dependent on street or prescription drugs, or how they can function well enough to enjoy their grandchildren and just life in general. My son, William, was never a non-functioning, non-productive member of society. My son, William, will never get to see his 11 yr old dtr grow up,, much less get to one day enjoy his grandchildren.

13 The public has no idea what they are really ingesting. In reality, Kratom is a drug and a very deadly one at that. It is an addictive opioid-like drug and many thousands of families have experienced tremendous loss and heartbreak because of it. It is truly tragic to know something so readily available can create so much misery and heartbreak.

14. Any Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) is a laughable solution and gives a false sense of security to the consumer. Allowing the availability of kratom keeps the market-place door open for consumers to purchase future & novel synthetic derivatives. A ban is the only effective way to prevent these products from reaching the public.

Charette, Jessica

From: MacGillfrey, Cheyenne
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 3:43 PM
To: Bott, Virginia; Charette, Jessica; Tutunjian, Harry; billfilm1@gmail.com; Bob Loveridge (rclrrlove52@gmail.com); 'bruce.patire@yahoo.com'; burdenlakecc@yahoo.com; 'danfcasale@gmail.com'; 'jeffwy26@aol.com'; 'kellyh518@aol.com'; 'khherrington@aol.com'; maloney.w35@gmail.com; 'rbayly6@gmail.com'; 'Tom Grant'
Subject: FW: Please Reject the Proposed T-4 Kratom Ban and Follow the Science

From: Tracey Hudson <traceyhfrey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 3:42 PM
To: Tracey Hudson <traceyhfrey@gmail.com>
Subject: Please Reject the Proposed T-4 Kratom Ban and Follow the Science

Warning: Unusual sender <traceyhfrey@gmail.com>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Members of the Rensselaer County Legislature,

I am writing regarding the proposed **Local Law T-4 of 2026**, which would prohibit kratom sales in Rensselaer County. I am asking you, as respectfully and sincerely as I can, to **reject this blanket ban and take the time to understand what natural kratom actually is—and how fundamentally different it is from concentrated and synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products.**

My name is **Tracey Hudson**. I live in neighboring Fulton County, and I have been a natural leaf kratom consumer for nearly a decade. I am also a mother, a Little League softball coach, a PTO volunteer, a New York small business owner, and the owner of **The Kratom Shop in Schenectady**, where we sell independently lab-tested natural leaf kratom.

This isn't just a policy issue for me. It's personal.

Nearly ten years ago, after the birth of my daughter, I developed severe postpartum anxiety. I developed irrational fears of falling asleep, driving my car, and eventually even leaving my home. I was trapped inside my own life of anxiety.

I did what I was supposed to do. I went to my doctor. I was prescribed medication after medication, different dosages and combinations, including highly addictive Xanax. They didn't give me my life back. In some cases, the side effects made things even worse.

I eventually reached a point where I felt I had nothing left to lose.

Then I found **natural leaf kratom**.

It changed my life.

It gave me my independence back. It allowed me to drive again, leave my house, and be present for my daughter. Today, I'm coaching Little League, volunteering at her school, running a business, and living a life I genuinely wasn't sure I would ever get back.

I am asking you to please understand the difference between what changed my life and the products that are now creating legitimate public health concerns.

Natural leaf kratom and synthetic 7-OH are not the same thing.

Natural kratom is a botanical from Southeast Asia that has been used traditionally for centuries. Its primary alkaloid is mitragynine, along with dozens of other naturally occurring alkaloids. During natural processing, only trace amounts of 7-OH occur in the leaf.

Concentrated and synthetic 7-OH products are something very different. They are manufactured to contain extremely high concentrations of 7-hydroxymitragynine and have a much more potent opioid-like pharmacological profile.

And this isn't simply my opinion.

The federal government understands the distinction.

The DEA has announced that 7-OH products meeting its criteria will be placed into **Schedule I**, while explicitly distinguishing those products from natural botanical kratom.

New York State has also recognized the distinction. Legislation banning concentrated/synthetic 7-OH while allowing traditional natural leaf kratom to remain available has passed both houses of the Legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The 7-OH threshold was specifically structured so that naturally occurring trace amounts in traditional kratom would not eliminate natural leaf products from the market.

The **FDA, DEA, HHS, and New York State** are not treating natural botanical kratom and synthetic 7-OH as interchangeable products. There is a reason for that.

I am asking Rensselaer County to follow that science and follow the direction of the state and federal government rather than moving in the opposite direction.

There is another issue I hope you will consider.

Some legislators are concerned about accessibility to kids and as a mother, that's my utmost concern because kratom is an adult product. Natural kratom products are already restricted to consumers **21 and older under New York law**. If minors are obtaining these products, that is an enforcement problem—not evidence that every adult should lose access.

A blanket prohibition would punish the responsible adults who are already complying with the law while doing nothing to address the illicit sale of products to minors.

Approximately **24 million Americans** consume kratom for a wide variety of reasons. Some use it as a botanical wellness product. Others use it for energy and focus, chronic pain, or—most importantly—as a harm-reduction tool to move away from more dangerous substances.

For someone using natural kratom to stay away from opioids, removing access isn't necessarily a neutral decision. It will have consequences.

I am begging you to **slow down and get this right**.

Please don't make public health policy based on headlines, anecdotes, or products that are being mislabeled as "kratom" when they are actually concentrated or synthetic 7-OH.

Look at the science. Look at the pharmacology. Look at what New York State and the federal agencies are actually doing.

If the concern is synthetic 7-OH, regulate and prohibit synthetic 7-OH.

If the concern is protecting children, enforce the existing 21+ law.

If the concern is product safety, require laboratory testing with the burden to fall on the retailer. Accurate labeling and warning statements are required by NYS beginning in November 2026.

But please don't eliminate access to traditional natural leaf kratom for millions of responsible adults because of a completely different category of products.

I respectfully ask the Legislature to reject **Local Law T-4 of 2026** as written and instead consider a targeted, science-based regulatory framework that protects consumers while preserving access to natural leaf kratom.

I would also welcome the opportunity to speak at the **September 2 Public Forum** and provide additional information or connect the Legislature with qualified experts who can explain the science behind the distinction between natural kratom and 7-OH.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story and, more importantly, for taking the time to understand the people who will be affected by this decision.

Respectfully,

Tracey Hudson
Fulton County, NY
Owner, The Kratom Shop
Natural Kratom Consumer for Nearly 10 Years

Charette, Jessica

From: MacGilfrey, Cheyenne
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 4:33 PM
To: Bott, Virginia; Charette, Jessica; Tutunjian, Harry; billfilm1@gmail.com; Bob Loveridge (rclrrlove52@gmail.com); 'bruce.patire@yahoo.com'; burdenlakecc@yahoo.com; 'danfcasale@gmail.com'; 'jeffwy26@aol.com'; 'kellyh518@aol.com'; 'khherrington@aol.com'; maloney.w35@gmail.com; 'rbayly6@gmail.com'; 'Tom Grant'
Subject: FW: Please Support Safe Access to Natural Kratom - NO BAN!

From: Jeremy DeLuca <flexdeluca@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 4:31 PM
Subject: Please Support Safe Access to Natural Kratom - NO BAN!

Warning: Unusual sender <flexdeluca@gmail.com>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Member,

I wanted to respectfully reach out regarding conversations or proposed actions surrounding kratom in your area.

For many responsible adults, natural kratom leaf is an important part of their daily lives. Thousands of consumers rely on it as part of their personal wellness routines, and continued legal access matters deeply to the people and families in your community. Removing access to natural kratom could negatively impact many individuals who depend on it and may push consumers toward unsafe or unregulated alternatives.

We also want to make it clear that there is a major difference between natural kratom leaf and newer synthetic or chemically altered compounds, including products commonly referred to as "7-OH." We strongly support regulations that target synthetic products, require age restrictions, proper labeling, product testing, and consumer safety standards.

Our position is simple:

- Keep natural kratom legal for responsible adults (kratom powder, capsules, extracts)
- Support sensible regulations and consumer protections
- Crack down on dangerous synthetic or misleading products
- Protect local businesses and consumers in your community

There are many responsible businesses operating in your area that provide jobs, generate tax revenue, and serve adult consumers who value having access to safe, tested products. A complete ban on natural kratom would hurt local businesses and the people who rely on these products responsibly every day.

We believe thoughtful regulation is a far better approach than prohibition. Many states across the country have already implemented consumer protection frameworks that help ensure safety while preserving legal access for adults.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your willingness to listen to consumers, local businesses, and community members as these discussions continue.

Sincerely,

Jeremy DeLuca
CEO and Founder of Parform
Co-Founder of [Bodybuilding.com](https://www.bodybuilding.com)



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Poughkeepsie, New York | Established 2017

scott@hudsonvalleybotanicals.com | www.hudsonvalleybotanicals.com

RENSSELAER COUNTY KRATOM BACKGROUNDER | AUGUST 2026

THE DISTINCTION EVERY THRESHOLD IS BUILT ON

Kratom leaf contains 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) naturally, at or below roughly two percent of total alkaloid content. The products driving the regulatory response are concentrated and semi-synthetic 7-OH goods sold at concentrations the plant does not produce. Federal and state law have both drawn the line at that concentration, not at the plant.

FEDERAL

- July 2026: the DEA moved to temporarily place concentrated 7-OH and related compounds, including mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM-15 and MGM-16, into Schedule I. The threshold in that action is set so that natural leaf falls outside it.
- Kratom leaf itself is not federally scheduled, is not FDA approved for any use, and is not an approved dietary ingredient. Nothing here is a health or therapeutic claim.

NEW YORK STATE

- **December 22, 2025.** The Governor signed two laws now in effect: sales to anyone under 21 are prohibited with civil penalties, and every product must carry a warning label and full ingredient disclosure. Marketing kratom as “all natural” is prohibited.
- **June 2026.** S8925-A prohibits the sale, offer for sale, delivery, or distribution of any product containing 7-OH above two percent of total alkaloids or one milligram per serving. It passed the Senate 61 to 0 and the Assembly in June, awaits the Governor, and takes effect 90 days after signing.
- **Local relevance.** The bill's co-sponsors include Senator Jake Ashby, whose 43rd District covers all of Rensselaer County. He voted for it.

WHERE NEW YORK COUNTIES STAND ON KRATOM, AS OF AUGUST 21, 2026

COUNTY	ACTION TAKEN	DATE
ADOPTED OR ORDERED		
Nassau	Prohibited all kratom sales	March 2026
Suffolk	Regulatory framework; tested leaf permitted	Signed July 30, 2026
Dutchess	7-OH threshold prohibition; leaf permitted	Adopted August 10, 2026
Oneida	Prohibited all kratom sales	Adopted August 12, 2026
Albany	All-kratom ban by executive health order, not a local law	Effective August 31, 2026
STILL IN PROGRESS		
Warren	Declined a local ban; sought a letter backing the state Synthetic Kratom Kills Act	Committee, July 21, 2026
Oswego	Youth-access law redirected toward a full ban; public hearing pending	Hearing September 10, 2026
Rensselaer	T-4: all-kratom prohibition; 11 of 19 members sponsoring	Hearing and vote Sept. 8, 2026

Warren chose a letter of support for the state Synthetic Kratom Kills Act (S10514 / A10969), which prohibits synthesized and adulterated kratom while requiring testing and labeling for natural products. Oswego's counsel, asked to draft an outright ban, raised state preemption, home-rule limits, and Oswego's non-charter status; T-4 raises the same questions.

SCALE, AND WHAT A COUNTY LINE CAN AND CANNOT REACH

Rensselaer County has roughly 160,500 residents. T-4's own enforcement section reaches retailers within the county and any vehicle they use. Nothing in the draft reaches an out-of-county seller shipping in, a provision the Dutchess text expressly includes. As written, the law closes the local shops that can already be inspected and leaves the mail untouched, while a threshold law reaches the same shops and the shipped products both.

WHAT COMPLIANCE ALREADY LOOKS LIKE WITHOUT A MANDATE

Leaf only, no 7-OH and no concentrated extracts. Age verification wherever the law requires it, New York included. Third-party lab testing with published certificates. State-compliant labeling. Shipments blocked into every prohibiting jurisdiction. A local law can require all five of every seller.

THE ASK

Amend T-4 on the floor September 8 to prohibit concentrated and synthetic 7-OH at the S8925-A thresholds, keep every enforcement tool already drafted, the confiscation, the per-item penalties, and the criminal referral, aimed at those products, and add the online-seller provision the draft lacks. Dutchess County Resolution 2026136 is a working New York model: filed by legislators after their Executive proposed a full ban, and adopted unanimously.

Disclosure. Prepared by Scott Urbin, owner of Hudson Valley Botanicals LLC of Poughkeepsie, New York. I sell kratom leaf into Rensselaer County and have a commercial interest in this outcome. Every factual item above comes from a government document; the underlying texts are available on request.



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August 21, 2026

Hon. Mark J. Fleming, Minority Leader

Hon. Nina M. Nichols, Deputy Minority Leader

Legislators Ashley, Galuski, Rutecki, Sabo, Weaver and Zalewski

Rensselaer County Legislature, 99 Troy Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

Re: Local Law T-4 (Intro) of 2026. A floor amendment worth offering on September 8.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Scott Urbin. I own Hudson Valley Botanicals, a kratom company based in Poughkeepsie that has operated since 2017 and sells to customers and retailers across New York, including in Rensselaer County. I do not live in your county, and I have a commercial interest in this law. I want that on the table before you read another line.

T-4 was introduced on August 11 with eleven sponsors, and its printed adoption block already carries September 8, the same night as the public hearing. I am writing to the eight of you because you did not sponsor it, which makes you the only members who can put an alternative before the body.

The ask. Offer a floor amendment that replaces the all-kratom prohibition with the thresholds in state bill S8925-A: no product containing 7-hydroxymitragynine above two percent of total alkaloids or one milligram per serving. Keep the draft's penalties and enforcement aimed at those products, and add the provision it lacks and the Dutchess text includes, reaching online sellers who ship into the county from outside it.

You would not be inventing this. Three weeks ago the Dutchess County Legislature received a County Executive's proposal to ban all kratom. Rather than pass it as written, four legislators filed a narrower version aimed at the concentrates, and on August 10 it was adopted unanimously. The adopted text is enclosed, and it is no soft option: strict liability, \$1,500 for a first violation, \$3,000 for repeats within thirty-six months, an additional \$500 where the sale is to anyone under 21, and every sale a separate violation.

It is also where every level of government above the county drew the line this year:

1. In July, the DEA moved concentrated 7-OH products and three related synthetic compounds into Schedule I, with a threshold set so that natural leaf falls outside the order.
2. New York's under-21 sales prohibition and mandatory warning label requirements have been in effect since December 2025, and I comply with both.
3. S8925-A passed the Senate 61 to 0 on June 2, passed the Assembly on June 5, and awaits the Governor. Senator Ashby, whose district covers all of Rensselaer County, is a co-sponsor and voted for it.

Three comparisons with the enclosed Dutchess text are worth knowing before the hearing. Dutchess grounds its law in Municipal Home Rule Law §10(1)(ii)(a)(12) and its county charter; T-4's authority section cites only Article IX. Dutchess retires itself the day corresponding state law takes effect; T-4 has no such clause, with S8925-A on the Governor's desk. And Dutchess reaches any online platform shipping into the county; T-4's enforcement reaches retailers within the county and their vehicles. The enclosed note expands on each for the County Attorney.

An amendment may not carry on the count. It is still worth offering, because it places the State's own thresholds in the record and gives every member the choice of a version aimed at the products the DEA and the State Legislature have actually named.

My own practices are itemized in the enclosed background: leaf only, no 7-OH or concentrated extracts, age verification where required, published lab results, and no shipping into any prohibiting jurisdiction.

I would welcome the chance to speak at the September 8 hearing, and I am happy to answer questions from any member in writing beforehand.

Respectfully,

Scott Urbin | Owner, Hudson Valley Botanicals LLC | Poughkeepsie, NY

Enclosures: Rensselaer County background; technical note for the County Attorney; Dutchess Resolution 2026136 reference sheet and ~~filed~~ ~~text~~ 2

Every factual statement in the attached letter is drawn from a government document or an official legislative record. Each one is listed below with a direct link, so that counsel and staff can verify it at the source rather than take my word for it. In the electronic copy the entries are clickable; the full address is printed beneath each one for anyone working from paper.

1. **Federal scheduling action.** U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, “DEA to Temporarily Schedule 7-OH and Related Substances to Protect Public Safety,” news release, July 1, 2026. Two Notices of Intent: one covering 7-OH above a specified threshold, one covering mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM-15 and MGM-16. [dea.gov](https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2026/07/01/dea-temporarily-schedule-7-oh-and-related-substances-protect-public)
<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2026/07/01/dea-temporarily-schedule-7-oh-and-related-substances-protect-public>
2. **Federal Register notice.** Document 2026-13580, “Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of 7-Hydroxymitragynine Above a Specified Threshold in Schedule I,” published July 6, 2026. [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/07/06/2026-13580/schedules-of-controlled-substance-temporary-placement-of-7-hydroxymitragynine-above-a-specified)
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/07/06/2026-13580/schedules-of-controlled-substance-temporary-placement-of-7-hydroxymitragynine-above-a-specified>
3. **New York State law now in effect.** Office of the Governor, December 22, 2025. S4552-A / A2340-A prohibits sales to anyone under 21. S8285 / A5852-A requires a warning label and full ingredient disclosure. [governor.ny.gov](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-two-pieces-landmark-legislation-protect-new-yorkers-against-harmful)
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-two-pieces-landmark-legislation-protect-new-yorkers-against-harmful>
4. **S8925-A, thresholds and vote record.** New York State Senate, Bill S8925-A. Senate floor vote June 2, 2026: 61 aye, 0 nay. Substituted for A9156-B and passed the Assembly June 5, 2026. Prohibits sale, offer for sale, delivery or distribution of any product containing 7-OH above two percent of total alkaloids or one milligram per serving; effective the ninetieth day after becoming law. [nysenate.gov](https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S8925/amendment/A)
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S8925/amendment/A>
5. **Senator Ashby.** Co-sponsors of S8925-A include Senator Jacob Ashby of the 43rd Senate District, which covers all of Rensselaer County; recorded aye on the June 2 floor vote. [nysenate.gov](https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S8925/amendment/A)
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S8925/amendment/A>
6. **Dutchess County.** Resolution 2026136, filed by Legislators Valdés Smith, Atkins, Munn and Kaul after the County Executive proposed a full ban; adopted unanimously August 10, 2026. County news release and filed text; see the enclosed reference sheet. [dutchessny.gov](https://www.dutchessny.gov/Dutchess-Legislature-Moves-to-Ban-Dangerous-Gas-Station-Kratom-Concentrates-While-Protecting-Adults-Access-to-Natural-Leaf.htm)
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Dutchess-Legislature-Moves-to-Ban-Dangerous-Gas-Station-Kratom-Concentrates-While-Protecting-Adults-Access-to-Natural-Leaf.htm>
7. **Suffolk County.** Introductory Resolution No. 1279-2026 as amended, a regulatory framework rather than a prohibition, signed by the County Executive July 30, 2026. [scnylegislature.us](https://www.scnylegislature.us)
<https://www.scnylegislature.us/DocumentCenter/View/128016/Introductory-Resolution-1279-26-PDF>
8. **The text under consideration.** Rensselaer County Legislature, Local Law T-4 (Intro) of 2026, introduced August 11, 2026, and the August 11, 2026 meeting packet. Sponsors: Patire, Hoffman, Loveridge, Film, Choquette, Bayly, Grant, Casale, Herrington, Maloney and Wysocki. Sections cited above: 4 (exemption), 5 (inspection and enforcement), 6 (penalties), 8 (effective date).

A note on what is not cited here. I have made no claim in the letter or the enclosures about what kratom does to the body, what it is useful for, or how it compares to anything else. Kratom is not approved by the FDA for any use and is not an approved dietary ingredient. My argument rests only on where federal and state law have drawn the line and on what a county prohibition can and cannot reach.



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REFERENCE SHEET | DUTCHESS COUNTY RESOLUTION 2026136

WHAT IT IS

A local law adopted unanimously by the Dutchess County Legislature on August 10, 2026, and awaiting the County Executive's signature as of August 21. She has said publicly that she will continue to press for a full ban. It prohibits the sale and distribution of concentrated and synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products countywide. It is not a kratom prohibition. Plain leaf is left available to adults, subject to the New York State age and labeling requirements that already apply.

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES

- Prohibits any product containing 7-OH above two percent of total alkaloids or above one milligram per serving, matching the thresholds in state bill S8925-A.
- Reaches named lab-made analogs, including MGM-15, MGM-16 and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, along with chemically similar compounds developed later.
- Extends to online retailers shipping prohibited products to an address in the county, so the prohibition is not limited to storefronts inside the county line.
- Retains the civil penalty and enforcement structure of the County Executive's July 30 proposal, including a higher penalty tier for sales to anyone under 21. Confirm the exact amounts against the adopted text.
- Places enforcement with the county Department of Health.
- Includes a provision addressing what happens to the local law if and when the corresponding state law takes effect.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT

County Executive Sue Serino announced a full countywide prohibition on the sale and distribution of all kratom on July 30, 2026. The Legislature instead filed and moved a narrower measure aimed at concentrates and lab-made analogs. It cleared committee on August 6 and was adopted at the full Legislature meeting on August 10 by voice vote, with no recorded opposition. The Legislature's own announcement described the measure as targeting dangerous concentrates while preserving adult access to natural leaf.

WHERE TO GET THE OFFICIAL TEXT

Request the adopted text of Resolution 2026136 (2026 session) from the Clerk of the Dutchess County Legislature. The Legislature's news release on the measure is posted at dutchessny.gov under County Legislature news releases for 2026, and adopted resolutions are searchable through the county's public access viewer at apps.dutchessny.gov. Named sponsors of the measure were Legislators Valdés Smith, Atkins, Munn and Kaul.

A copy of the filed text is enclosed with this packet. It is provided for convenience only. For any provision your counsel intends to rely on or adapt, obtain the certified copy from the Dutchess County Clerk of the Legislature.

WHY IT IS OFFERED HERE

Rensselaer County is weighing a local law on the same subject. Resolution 2026136 is a working New York county model on the narrower approach: it has been drafted by a county attorney, reviewed in committee, adopted by a county legislature, and it is aligned with the thresholds the State Legislature passed in June and the line the DEA drew in July. Whatever Rensselaer decides, having an adopted New York text in front of counsel should shorten the drafting work.

Disclosure. Prepared by Scott Urbin, owner of Hudson Valley Botanicals LLC of Poughkeepsie, New York. I sell kratom leaf products in New York and I have a commercial interest in how this is resolved. This sheet is a summary written by an interested party and is not legal advice or an official document of Dutchess County.

Charette, Jessica

From: Burton, Michelle
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 12:09 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: FW: Online Form Submittal: Rensselaer County Executive Contact Form

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 12:07 PM
To: Burton, Michelle <MBurton@renscony.gov>; Crist, Rich <RCrist@renscony.gov>
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Rensselaer County Executive Contact Form

External sender <noreply@civicplus.com>
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Rensselaer County Executive Contact Form

First Name	Hunter
Last Name	Petro
Address	Field not completed.
City	Field not completed.
State	NY
Zip Code	Field not completed.
Phone Number	8456084383
Email Address	hunter@carlucciconsulting.com
Comment/Question	County Executive,

On behalf of the American Kratom Association (AKA), which represents over 20 million natural kratom users nationwide, we write regarding the proposed local law under consideration in Rensselaer County to prohibit the sale and distribution of kratom products. We recognize that this proposal has been under discussion in the County for several years and reflects real harms that residents of the Capital Region have experienced, and we do not question the seriousness of what has been lost. Our request is narrower in asking that the Legislature consider scoping the law to the products actually

driving those harms.

Millions of Americans, including many New Yorkers, use properly manufactured natural kratom products responsibly, reporting its use as a harm-reduction tool or as a safer alternative to more dangerous substances. The genuine public safety issue involves laboratory-concentrated or semi-synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products, which are manufactured and marketed separately from traditional kratom. While natural kratom leaf contains only trace, naturally occurring amounts of 7-OH, artificially concentrated or synthesized versions exhibit significantly greater opioid-like potency and abuse potential. Nearly all of the public discussion of this proposal has centered on synthetic product, its potency relative to morphine, and its sale in gas stations and corner stores, which is precisely the distinction we would ask the Legislature to write into the law. The draft already recognizes that not all kratom products are alike by exempting FDA-approved products and kratom dispensed through a pharmacy. Extending that same logic to natural kratom leaf while banning concentrated and synthetic 7-OH would target the products at issue without criminalizing responsible adult use.

We would respectfully draw attention to Suffolk County, which recently contemplated a similar countywide prohibition. After public hearings and review of the science, Suffolk lawmakers redrafted their legislation to target dangerous synthetic 7-OH products sold in gas stations and smoke shops while preserving access to natural kratom leaf. We believe that approach reflects the right policy distinction and offers a useful model for Rensselaer County.

This distinction is now reflected at both the state and federal levels. Last month, the New York State Legislature unanimously passed A.9156-B/S.8925, which prohibits the sale of isolated, concentrated, or synthetic 7-OH products statewide without banning natural kratom leaf. That bill is awaiting the Governor's signature. Then on July 1, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration announced its intent to temporarily place 7-OH above specified thresholds, along with three related synthetic substances, into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The DEA was explicit that this action targets concentrated and synthetic products and does not apply to botanical kratom containing naturally occurring trace levels of 7-OH.

In July 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration formally recommended scheduling 7-OH, not kratom. As Commissioner

Makary noted, "7-OH is found only in trace amounts in kratom leaf, our primary concern is the concentrated form of 7-OH. These concentrated 7-OH opioid products are far more dangerous than traditional kratom leaf products."

Taken together, these materials help illustrate why regulatory attention may be more appropriately focused on concentrated 7-OH products rather than natural kratom leaf. For your reference, I've included:

The Rockefeller Institute of Government analysis, On Kratom, or the Fractured Regulation of Unscheduled Drugs.

Johns Hopkins - The rise of novel, semi-synthetic 7-hydroxymitragnine products

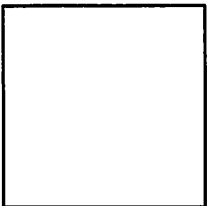
Hopkins Medicine - Emerging Use of Kratom in US: Kratom Use Disorder Experts Propose Decision-Making Algorithm for Clinicians

We would encourage the County to review these developments closely and to consider redrafting the proposed legislation to align with this emerging state and federal framework. The problem is these new synthetic 7-OH products, not natural kratom, and a blanket ban would not address the issue at hand while criminalizing responsible adult use, a conclusion Suffolk County reached after careful study.

The American Kratom Association stands ready to provide additional data, scientific expertise, or regulatory guidance as you evaluate this matter. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Best,
Hunter Petro
Chief of Staff | Carlucci Consulting

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



Charette, Jessica

From: Di Lucas <dilucas2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 6:21 PM
To: Hoffman, Kelly; Loveridge, Robert; Bayly, Rob; Herrington, Kenneth; Fleming, Mark; RenscoLeg
Subject: Testimony in Support of Kratom Ban from Angel Mom in Arizona

- Good morning,

Thank you for giving me this chance to let you know what Kratom and 7-OH have done to completely change my life. This story is probably a bit different than some of the other ones you will hear, but I feel it is important to let you know the dangers of Kratom and 7-OH.

My daughter Tana Ray Lam (Lucas) was the apple of my eye, not to say that she was perfect. She had had trouble in her youth and as a young adult with substances, she had worked hard to overcome that part of her life, was happily married to a wonderful man and looking forward to all the wonderful things this life holds. Until she was introduced to Kratom by a co-worker who told her it was a natural substitute for energy drinks and would be better for her, she bought Kratom at her local gas station. That is where everything turned bad, she started doing Kratom 9 years ago, then she heard that Kratom could have lead or other heavy metals and that the "concentrates" were clean and safe. She switched to the "cleaner concentrates" not knowing that the 7-OH in the concentrates were 5 to 50 times more potent than the Kratom powder she had been using. She was able to purchase the 7-OH at her local gas station, smoke shop or online because it is legal and unregulated.

In January 2026 Tana and her husband decided to have a baby so she decided to quit Kratom and 7-OH. She did not know that she should have never tried to go cold turkey but wean off or go through a medical detox. The withdrawals from 7-OH are worse than withdrawals from Morphine, Heroin or Alcohol.

She suffered with the agony and torturous withdrawals of this evil, insidious drug until she could no longer take it. On January 21, 2026, my funny, strong, amazing Tana took her own life to escape the pain of the withdrawals that came from her doing 7-OH. One of the last things she said to her husband was "when I get through this, I will become an advocate to inform people of the dangers of Kratom and 7-OH". She will not see that wish come to realization on this side, so I have picked up where she left off to let people know the snares of Kratom and 7-OH. This easy to get, legal, unregulated danger should be taken off the market ASAP before it costs us more lives.

Thank you again for giving me this chance to tell Tana's story,

Di Lucas

Kingman AZ

1 attachmentDownload



MacGilfrey, Cheyenne

From: Allison Smith <asmith@globalkratomcoalition.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 12:00 PM
To: Allison Smith
Subject: Request to Meet Regarding Proposed Kratom Legislation
Attachments: 08_25_26 - Letter to Rensselaer County, NY (2).pdf

Warning: Unusual sender <asmith@globalkratomcoalition.org>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Members of the Rensselaer County Legislature:

I'm reaching out regarding the proposed Rensselaer County legislation addressing kratom. I've attached a letter from the Global Kratom Coalition outlining our concerns with a blanket prohibition and the importance of distinguishing traditional natural kratom leaf from concentrated synthetic derivatives such as 7-OH.

More importantly, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you before the proposal advances. We share the County's concerns about dangerous concentrated and synthetic products and would welcome the chance to discuss the science, the recent federal and New York State actions, and potential amendments that would address those products without eliminating access to natural kratom leaf.

We are happy to work around your schedule and can make ourselves available at your convenience.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope we can connect soon.

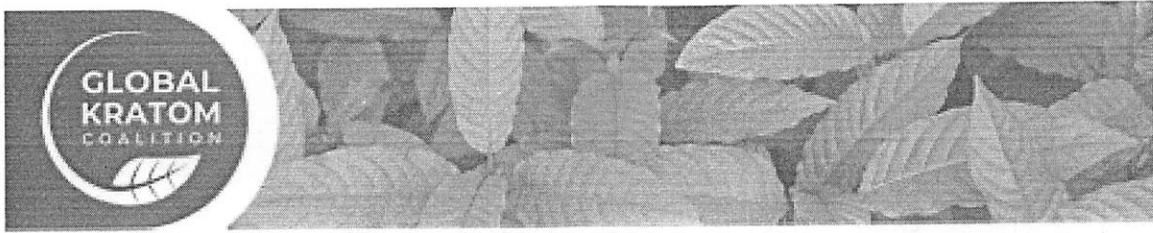
Best,

Allison Smith
Director of Government Affairs
Global Kratom Coalition



Alli Smith
Government Affairs Director | Global Kratom Coalition

C: 405-808-3701
E: ASmith@GlobalKratomCoalition.org
W: www.globalkratomcoalition.org



August 25, 2026

The Honorable Kenneth H. Herrington, Majority Leader
The Honorable Robert W. Bayly
The Honorable Thomas Grant
The Honorable Dan Casale
The Honorable William Maloney
The Honorable Thomas Choquette
The Honorable William "Bill" Film
The Honorable Robert R. Loveridge
The Honorable Jeffrey Wysocki
Rensselaer County Legislature
99 Troy Road
East Greenbush, New York 12061

Dear Majority Leader Herrington and Members of the Republican Majority:

My name is Allison Smith and I'm the Director of Government Affairs for the Global Kratom Coalition (GKC), an alliance of consumers, scientific experts, and industry leaders seeking to enact responsible regulations that ensure consumers have access to safe and regulated natural leaf kratom products.

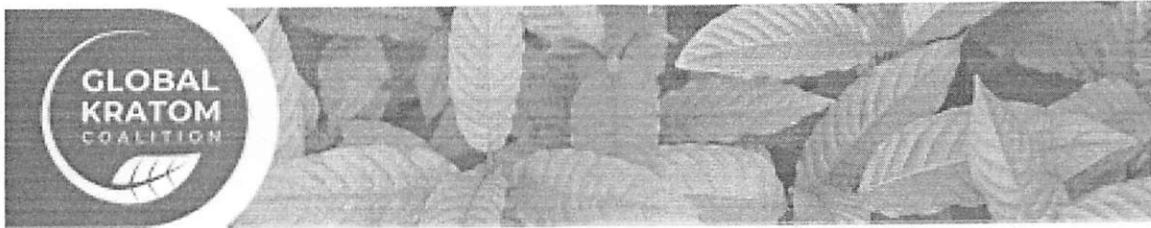
I write to you today regarding the proposed Rensselaer County legislation that would prohibit the sale and distribution of all kratom products throughout the county. We, the GKC, share your concern about concentrated synthetic kratom derivatives, and support decisive action against these products. However, we respectfully urge the County not to impose a blanket ban that treats natural kratom leaf and dangerous concentrated synthetic products as if they are the same.

They are not.

For the majority of kratom's history in the United States, natural leaf kratom was the only form available to consumers. In recent years, however, an entirely different category of products has emerged: highly concentrated or synthetically manufactured derivatives, including concentrated 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), that are marketed alongside, and masquerade as, traditional kratom products.

This distinction is not merely semantic. Federal regulators have now explicitly recognized it.

On July 6, 2026, the Drug Enforcement Administration published two Notices of Intent to temporarily schedule concentrated synthetic kratom derivatives. The first would schedule concentrated 7-OH above a 0.050% threshold, while the second would schedule mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM-15, and MGM-16. Importantly, federal officials made clear that these actions are not intended to capture or prohibit natural



kratom leaf. The DEA's decision to distinguish natural botanical kratom from concentrated synthetic derivatives was deliberate and reflects the substantial differences between these products.

This decision by the federal government was aided by the growing body of evidence that supports natural kratom and its safety. To date, there have been 18 clinical trials conducted on kratom, including one from the FDA, in addition to this, there are hundreds of non-clinical studies.

New York State has likewise chosen regulation over prohibition.

In December, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation prohibiting the sale of kratom to individuals under 21 and requiring kratom products sold in New York to carry ingredient disclosures and consumer warning labels. Additionally, Senate Bill 8925, which would ban the sale of concentrated, synthetic derivatives of kratom, has passed the legislature and awaits signature from the Governor. The State has therefore already established a regulatory framework designed to protect consumers while preserving lawful adult access to natural kratom products.

Rensselaer County should build upon that framework rather than create a conflicting local prohibition.

The term "kratom" is increasingly being applied to fundamentally different products. Treating every product carrying that label as interchangeable risks obscuring the very public health problem regulators are attempting to address.

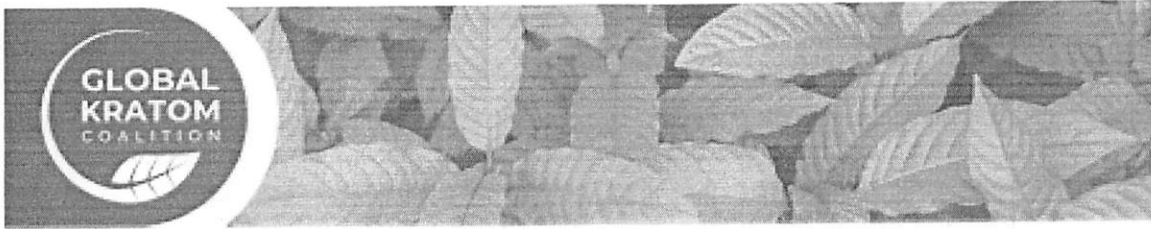
A blanket prohibition would also affect Rensselaer County residents who have responsibly consumed natural kratom products for years. These individuals should not lose access to a lawful botanical product because manufacturers of concentrated synthetic derivatives have exploited the kratom name to market products that bear little resemblance to traditional natural leaf.

There is a better path.

If Rensselaer County believes additional local action is necessary, we respectfully urge the County to follow the distinction already embraced at the federal and state levels: prohibit dangerous concentrated synthetic derivatives while allowing natural kratom leaf products that comply with appropriate age restrictions, labeling requirements, and product standards to remain available to adults.

Other New York counties, including Dutchess and Suffolk Counties, have demonstrated that local governments can address concentrated and synthetic products without imposing a blanket prohibition on natural kratom leaf. A similar approach in Rensselaer County would protect consumers, provide clarity for retailers and law enforcement, and avoid contributing to an unnecessary patchwork of conflicting local kratom laws across New York.

The appropriate entities are already acting. The DEA is moving against concentrated synthetic derivatives. Governor Hochul and the New York Legislature have enacted statewide consumer protections. Rather than creating a separate local prohibition that reaches significantly further than either of those approaches, we



urge Rensselaer County to allow those regulatory systems to work and to focus any additional enforcement on the products presenting the greatest public health concern.

We therefore respectfully urge Rensselaer County not to advance the proposed blanket ban and instead amend the proposal to adopt a targeted approach that distinguishes natural kratom from concentrated synthetic derivatives, such as 7-OH.

We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the Republican Majority before this proposal advances to discuss the scientific evidence surrounding natural kratom leaf, the emergence of concentrated synthetic products, and regulatory models already being implemented elsewhere in New York.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting the health and safety of Rensselaer County residents. We share that goal and hope to work with you toward a solution that protects consumers without unnecessarily eliminating access to natural kratom leaf.

Sincerely,

Allison Smith
Director of Government Affairs
Global Kratom Coalition

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Introduced by Legislator(s) Sabo, Fleming, Nichols, Ashley, Galuski, Rutecki, Weaver, Zalewski

Sent To: Local Government

Committee

Date September 8, 2026

Resolution No. G/16

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH TOWN HALL STREAMS FOR LIVE STREAMING SERVICES OF PUBLIC FORUMS AND MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE – LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, The Rensselaer County Legislature is committed to the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and open government; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Rensselaer County have the right to be informed of the conduct of public business and to attend meetings where such business is discussed; and

WHEREAS, Numerous County residents have expressed a desire to participate virtually in county legislative meetings and public forums due to accessibility and transportation issues related to in person attendance; and

WHEREAS, There is no means for residents to attend and participate in Rensselaer County legislative meetings and public forums virtually; and

WHEREAS, Town Hall Streams is a company that has developed a video broadcast solution for municipalities to stream meetings live via the internet; and

WHEREAS, Many towns in Rensselaer County have entered into agreements with Town Hall Streams to livestream committee meetings and public forums, including the towns of North Greenbush, East Greenbush and Sand Lake and;

WHEREAS, Town Hall Streams has agreed to provide the Rensselaer County Legislature with unlimited streaming services; and

WHEREAS, The total amount of funding for the term of the agreement shall not exceed \$ 300.00 per month and has been budgeted via the Department's appropriation code H.1106 – the Legislative Chamber Fund, which allocates funds for repair and improvements of the Legislative Chambers; and

WHEREAS, The Rensselaer County Legislature would like to retain the services of Town Hall Streams to provide streaming services for county legislative meetings and public forums; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Rensselaer County Legislature does hereby agree to enter into an agreement with Town Hall Streams to provide streaming services for legislative meetings and public forums.

Resolution ADOPTED by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

September 8, 2026

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Type of Legislation: Local Law: _____ G Resolution: X P Resolution: _____

Title of Legislation: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH TOWN HALL
STREAMS FOR LIVE STREAMING SERVICES OF PUBLIC FORUM MEETINGS OF THE
LEGISLATURE – LEGISLATURE

Requested by: Legislature – Minority Office

Sponsor(s): _____

FISCAL IMPACT

- 1) Projected cost of proposed legislation, if any: \$ 300.00/per month _____
\$ 3,600.00 ongoing expenses per year
- 2) Method of financing – note all that apply (federal funding, state funding, bonding, tax levy, etc.): _____
 - a) For federal funding: amount \$ _____ and length of time federal funding is available _____. Is it available for ongoing expenses? Yes _____ or No _____
 - b) For state funding: amount \$ _____ and length of time state funding is available _____. Is it available for ongoing expenses? Yes _____ or No _____
 - c) If bonded, state amount of total indebtedness this legislation will create and projected interest cost over the course of borrowing:
Principal \$ _____
Total projected interest costs \$ _____
 - d) Tax levy impact for current year \$ Y and ongoing \$ _____
 - e) Other (please explain) \$ _____ H.1106 Chamber Fund Savings _____
- 3) Is this expense or program mandated? Yes _____ No xx
- 4) Length of expense or project (one time only, ongoing, etc.): ongoing

Justification for the appropriation/expenditure requested. Include any revenue this will produce or any expense that will be avoided:

Department Head:

Mark Fleming



Rensselaer County, NY Town Hall Meetings Live and On Demand Streaming Proposal

Scope:

Town Hall Streams will provide the town of Rensselaer County, NY a system that will provide real time and on demand playback of any meetings that are broadcast on the local cable channel. All equipment will be supplied and maintained by Town Hall Streams. The equipment comes with full warranty for as long as the town continues the service with Town Hall Streams.

Meetings will be streamed live and available for On Demand playback via www.townhallstreams.com, links may be posted from the town website. On Demand playback is available for a period of 5 Years. We will allow for authorized persons to download one digital copy for any use. Town Hall Streams will use the current internet connection at the location. Wide angle camera and ceiling mic system supplied.

Cost:

Monthly: \$300.00 Unlimited live streaming

Monthly Optional: \$50.00 Second live streaming PIP
\$30.00 Zoom PIP
\$ 5/Hr (Voice to Text) Meeting Minute Transcript + Ai Meeting Minutes
\$25.00 Social Media Plugin

Installation: TBD

Term: Monthly **Warranty:** Lifetime or length of contract

Payment:

By Check

Company:

Town Hall Streams – 8 Osprey Lane, York Maine 03909

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____