



HUDSON VALLEY BOTANICALS

Poughkeepsie, New York | Established 2017

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WRITTEN STATEMENT | LOCAL LAW T-4 OF 2026

For the record of the County Executive's public hearing | Thursday, September 24, 2026, 5:00 p.m. | Legislative Chambers, 99 Troy Road, East Greenbush, New York

To the Honorable Steven F. McLaughlin, County Executive:

My name is Scott Urbin. I own Hudson Valley Botanicals, a kratom company in Poughkeepsie since 2017, with customers in Rensselaer County. I do not live in the county, and I have a financial interest in this law. I want that on the record first.

I ask that the County Executive veto Local Law T-4 and return it with a message recommending the limits the State Legislature has already passed, rather than a prohibition that reaches the plant.

The products driving this concern are concentrated and synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), made in labs at strengths the plant does not produce. In July, the DEA moved to schedule those products, drawing its line so that natural leaf falls outside it. In June, S8925-A passed the State Senate 61 to 0 and the Assembly 132 to 0, prohibiting 7-OH above two percent of total alkaloids or one milligram per serving. Senator Jake Ashby, who represents Rensselaer County, co-sponsored it. T-4 draws no such line.

Dutchess County faced this exact choice. County Executive Sue Serino proposed a full ban in July. The Legislature sent her the narrower measure instead, and she signed it in September as Local Law No. 6 of 2026, saying it did not go as far as she wanted but that any step forward was better than the status quo. That is the same decision now before the County Executive here.

T-4 also passed exactly as filed, with drafting errors in its text. Section 3 defines kratom by reference to "mitragynine"; the alkaloid is mitragynine. Section 2 cites the "Federal Drug Administration"; the agency is the Food and Drug Administration. And T-4 contains no clause deferring to state law once S8925-A takes effect. Those errors alone are reason to return the law and correct it, whatever one's view of kratom.

My own products are natural leaf only. I have never sold concentrates or synthetic derivatives. Every batch is tested by an independent laboratory, with the results published, and I stop shipping to any jurisdiction that prohibits these products. If T-4 takes effect, Rensselaer County addresses come off my shipping map that day. The sellers this law is aimed at will not do the same.

I respectfully ask the County Executive to veto Local Law T-4 and return it with the State's limits.

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

This statement supplements my letter to the County Executive of September 11, 2026, and my follow-up to it.