



HUDSON VALLEY BOTANICALS

Poughkeepsie, New York | Established 2017

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September 23, 2026

Hon. Steven F. McLaughlin, County Executive

Rensselaer County, Troy, New York

Re: Local Law T-4 of 2026. Follow-up to my September 11 letter, for the September 24 hearing record.

Dear Mr. McLaughlin,

I wrote on September 11 asking that you veto Local Law T-4 and return it with a message recommending the state's thresholds. With the public hearing now set for Thursday, one development since then bears on your decision, and I would be grateful if this note and my earlier letter could be entered in the record of the hearing.

Dutchess County's measure, which my letter described as adopted on August 10, has since been signed into law as Local Law No. 6 of 2026. County Executive Sue Serino had herself proposed a full countywide ban in July. The Legislature sent her the narrower version instead, prohibiting concentrated and synthetic 7-OH above the state thresholds while leaving natural leaf available to adults, and she signed it, saying that any step forward was better than the status quo. That is the same choice now in front of you, and a fellow County Executive who had wanted the broader law chose the narrower one. Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine made a similar choice in July, signing a regulatory law rather than a prohibition.

One further point, now that the adopted text is available. T-4 passed exactly as filed. Its Section 3 definition still refers to "mytragynine," and the alkaloid is mitragynine; its Section 2 findings cite the "Federal Drug Administration," and the agency is the Food and Drug Administration. A veto with a message would allow those corrections, along with a clause deferring to state law once S8925-A takes effect, without requiring any position on the policy itself.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

cc: Carl Kempf, County Attorney