



HUDSON VALLEY BOTANICALS

Poughkeepsie, New York | Established 2017

scott@hudsonvalleybotanicals.com | www.hudsonvalleybotanicals.com

September 11, 2026

Hon. Steven F. McLaughlin

County Executive, Rensselaer County

99 Troy Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

Re: Local Law T-4 of 2026. A request for a veto with a message.

Dear Mr. McLaughlin,

I own Hudson Valley Botanicals, a kratom company 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.

I submitted a comment through the county's web form after the vote. This letter expands on that submission now that I have a direct address.

Local Law T-4 of 2026 passed the Legislature on September 8. I am writing to ask that you veto it and return it with a message recommending the thresholds the State Legislature has already passed, rather than a prohibition that reaches the plant leaf.

A veto would hold. Eleven of nineteen members sponsored T-4, and thirteen are needed to override. Every non-sponsor present on September 8 voted to table the law for further study before it passed, and the threshold approach itself never received a recorded vote. The 15 to 2 result overstates the support for this particular text: five members voted to table it, then voted yes once tabling failed. A veto with a message asks the Legislature to consider the version it has not yet voted on.

The distinction the law misses. The products driving the concern are concentrated and semi-synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) goods, sold at potencies the plant does not produce. That is the line the DEA drew in July, when it moved to schedule those compounds with thresholds set so natural leaf falls outside the order. It is the line the State Legislature drew in June: S8925-A passed the Senate 61 to 0 and the Assembly 132 to 0, prohibiting 7-OH above two percent of total alkaloids or one milligram per serving, and it awaits the Governor. Your own State Senator, Jake Ashby, co-sponsored it and voted for it. T-4 draws no such line.

What the narrower version would look like, and that it already exists. Dutchess County adopted Resolution 2026136 unanimously on August 10, prohibiting 7-OH above the state thresholds, reaching named synthetic analogs, and expressly reaching online sellers shipping into the county, while leaving tested leaf available to adults 21 and over. Ulster County has a bipartisan bill on the same thresholds with a hearing proposed for October 20. Albany County went further and prohibited all kratom by health order, but its own counsel wrote a threshold definition into Section 1(c) of that order and built Section 8 so the narrower prohibition survives if the categorical one is invalidated. The drafting work is done, in three counties. A proposed substitute, keyed to the sections of T-4 as adopted and keeping every enforcement provision, is enclosed alongside the Dutchess text.

Two practical points. First, T-4's enforcement reaches retailers within the county and their vehicles. Nothing in it reaches an out-of-county seller shipping in, which the Dutchess text covers in a sentence. As written, the law closes the shops the county can already inspect and leaves the mail untouched. Second, the concentrated products the law is aimed at will still arrive by mail from sellers who verify no ages, test no batches, and publish no results.

On my own practices: my products are leaf only. I have never sold 7-OH concentrates or synthetic derivatives. Every batch is tested by an independent laboratory with the certificates published, my labeling meets the state's requirements, and I block shipments into every jurisdiction that prohibits these products. If T-4 takes effect, Rensselaer County addresses come off my shipping map the day it is filed. The sellers the law is aimed at will not do that.

A veto with a message costs the county nothing and keeps every enforcement tool in the draft pointed at the products that warrant them. I would welcome the chance to answer questions in writing.

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

Enclosures: Proposed substitute text for Local Law T-4; Dutchess County Resolution 2026136, filed text; Albany County Emergency Public Health Order No. 1 of 2026