



HUDSON VALLEY BOTANICALS

Poughkeepsie, New York | Established 2017

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September 22, 2026

**Hon. Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman
and Members of the Warren County Board of Supervisors**

Warren County Municipal Center, 1340 State Route 9, Lake George, New York 12845

Re: Request for a local law on kratom, referred by the Health Services Committee September 22, for the October 16 meeting.

Dear Chairman Geraghty and Members of the Board,

I own Hudson Valley Botanicals, a kratom company in Poughkeepsie that has operated since 2017 and sells across New York, including in Warren County. I have a commercial interest in this and would rather say so at the outset. My family has owned property in Stony Creek since the 1980s. I wrote to the Board in June and again in August, and Ms. Allen forwarded both letters to the supervisors and the County Attorney.

On September 22 the Health Services Committee approved a request that the County Attorney draft a local law banning the sale of kratom and kratom-related products countywide. I am writing before the Board takes that up on October 16, because the drafting instruction the Board gives is the decision that matters most, and it is easier to set now than to revisit after a draft exists.

The request's own rationale names the concern precisely: kratom products, “particularly 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH).” That is the right concern. The products driving it are concentrated and semi-synthetic 7-OH goods sold at potencies the plant does not produce. It 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, and the line the State Legislature drew in June, when 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. That bill awaits the Governor.

It is also where this Board's own Health Services Committee landed on July 21, when it chose not to pursue a county ban and instead requested a letter supporting the State's Synthetic Kratom Kills Act, which targets synthesized and adulterated products while requiring testing and labeling for natural kratom.

My request is narrow. When the Board takes up the referral, direct the County Attorney to draft a prohibition on 7-OH above the state thresholds and on synthetic analogs, rather than on the plant. Dutchess County adopted exactly that unanimously on August 10 in Resolution 2026136, and County Executive Sue Serino, who had proposed a full ban, signed it into law in September, saying that any step forward is better than the status quo. The text was drafted by a county law department and is enclosed again, now as enacted law. Ulster County has a bipartisan bill on the same thresholds, Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2026, with a hearing October 20. Either can be adapted section for section.

The practical difference is that a concentration threshold is testable. An independent laboratory can establish 7-OH content and total alkaloid content for any product, and a county can require that certificate at the point of sale. A prohibition on the plant produces no test results, and it does not reach a synthetic product manufactured elsewhere and shipped in. It closes the retailers the county can already inspect and leaves the mail untouched.

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, as I would here.

I am glad to answer questions in writing from any supervisor, and I am providing the drafting references to the County Attorney's office separately.

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

Enclosures: Dutchess County Resolution 2026136, filed text; Dutchess Resolution 2026136 reference sheet