



HUDSON VALLEY BOTANICALS

Poughkeepsie, New York | Established 2017
www.hudsonvalleybotanicals.com

LETTER TO GOVERNOR HOCHUL | S8925-A / A9156-B

To the Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York | October 2026
Re: Please call for and sign S8925-A / A9156-B (7-OH kratom products)

Dear Governor Hochul,

I own Hudson Valley Botanicals, a kratom company in Poughkeepsie since 2017, so I have a commercial interest in this bill and want to say so up front. I sell natural leaf powder and capsules only, never 7-OH products or extracts.

I respectfully ask you to call for S8925-A / A9156-B and sign it. It passed the Senate 61 to 0 and the Assembly 132 to 0 in June. It prohibits the sale and distribution of products with 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) above two percent of total alkaloids or one milligram per serving, and leaves products under those limits to the age and labeling laws you signed in December 2025.

Since June, the federal government has moved in the same direction. In October, HHS recommended federal limits on 7-OH and a related compound, which it says are designed to distinguish concentrated or chemically altered products from natural botanical kratom. The DEA's notice, published October 14 (91 FR 65370), states that 7-OH makes up less than two percent of total alkaloids in the natural plant, the same two percent figure S8925-A uses.

Counties are acting in the meantime, and some cite limited action at the state level as their reason. Nassau, Washington, Oneida and Rensselaer counties have enacted bans on kratom sales, and Albany County did the same by emergency health order on September 1. Saratoga County's proposed ban had its public hearing October 14, Warren County's health committee has asked for one, and towns and villages have started taking up their own.

Other counties are taking a narrower path. Dutchess, where my business is, adopted the S8925-A limits as Local Law No. 6 of 2026, and Ulster is weighing a bill with the same limits. Suffolk adopted testing and sales rules instead of a ban, and Oswego adopted retail rules.

Signing S8925-A would give New York one statewide standard for these products.

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

Sources for the facts in this letter are listed below, checked October 14, 2026.

SOURCES

S8925-A / A9156-B. New York State Senate, S8925-A of 2026: passed the Senate 61 to 0 on June 2, 2026 and the Assembly 132 to 0 on June 5, 2026; no delivery to the Governor recorded as of October 14, 2026: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S8925/amendment/A>. Assembly floor vote: https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S08925&term=2025&Summary=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y

Age and labeling laws. Office of the Governor, December 22, 2025, on signing S4552-A / A2340-A (no sales to anyone under 21) and S8285 / A5852-A (ingredient list and warning label): <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-two-pieces-landmark-legislation-protect-new-yorkers-against-harmful>

HHS recommendation. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, October 9, 2026 release on recommended thresholds for 7-OH and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl (MGPI): <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-recommends-thresholds-enhanced-kratom-products-7-oh-mgpi.html>

DEA notice. Drug Enforcement Administration, notice of intent to temporarily place 7-hydroxymitragynine and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl above a specified threshold in Schedule I, 91 FR 65370, October 14, 2026: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-20943>

Saratoga County. Board of Supervisors Resolution 257 of 2026, introducing Introductory No. 6 (a ban on the sale and distribution of kratom products, with no exception for natural leaf) and setting the October 14, 2026 public hearing; its findings cite limited action at the state level: <https://www.saratogacountyny.gov/wp/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Resolutions-248-282.pdf>

- Warren County.** Health Services Committee, September 22, 2026: item to introduce a local law banning the sale of kratom and kratom-related products, approved for the October 16 Board meeting:
<https://public.warrencountyny.gov/home/Dynamicfolders/BOS/2026/Health%20Services/09.22.2026/PrintAll/PrintAll.pdf>
- Nassau County.** Local law to prohibit the sale and distribution of kratom and products containing kratom, approved by the County Executive March 24, 2026 (Department of State filing): <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/53097>
- Washington County.** Introductory Local Law “E” of 2026, adopted as Local Law No. 5 of 2026:
<https://www.washingtoncountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31523/Local-Law-E-of-2026-Banning-Kratom-Sale>
- Oneida County.** Office of the County Executive, August 19, 2026, on signing the local law prohibiting the sale of kratom:
<https://opioidtaskforce.oneidacountyny.gov/news/picente-signs-local-law-prohibiting-sale-of-kratom>
- Rensselaer County.** WNYT, October 2, 2026, on the County Executive’s signature; the story also notes the bans in Albany and Washington counties:
<https://wnyt.com/top-stories/kratom-ban-in-rensselaer-co-signed-into-law/>
- Albany County.** WAMC, September 1, 2026, on the emergency health order taking effect:
<https://www.wamc.org/news/2026-09-01/albany-county-temporary-kratom-ban-goes-into-effect>
- Towns and villages.** Village of Lake Grove, notice of an April 16, 2026 public hearing on a local law adding kratom as a prohibited substance:
<https://lakegroveny.gov/?p=5890>. Village of Montgomery, public hearing October 6, 2026 on a proposed local law banning the sale and distribution of kratom products.
- Dutchess County.** Local Law No. 6 of 2026, introduced as Resolution No. 2026136 (7-OH above two percent of total alkaloids or one milligram per serving):
<https://apps.dutchessny.gov/ConCalAtt/2/Board%20Resolution%202026136.pdf>. Spectrum News, September 13, 2026, on the County Executive’s signature: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/hudson-valley/news/2026/09/13/partial-kratom-ban-signed-by-dutchess-county-executive->
- Ulster County.** Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2026 (the same two percent and one milligram limits); Mid-Hudson News, September 21, 2026:
<https://midhudsonnews.com/2026/09/21/ulster-county-lawmakers-consider-ban-on-concentrated-kratom-products/>
- Suffolk County.** Long Island Life & Politics, July 31, 2026, on the County Executive’s signature of kratom sales restrictions with independent third-party testing:
<https://lilifepolitics.com/news/long-island-news/county-signs-kratom-restrictions-tianeptine-ban-into-law/>
- Oswego County.** Local Law No. 7 of 2026 (no sales to anyone under 21, storage behind the counter or in a locked cabinet, no sales within 500 feet of a school):
<https://www.oswegocountyny.gov/County%20Legislature/Local%20Laws/2026/LL%207%20Kratom.pdf>