



# HUDSON VALLEY BOTANICALS

Poughkeepsie, New York | Established 2017

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October 5, 2026

**Hon. Eric Stewart, Chair, Health, Human Services and Human Rights Committee**

**Hon. Aaron J. Levine, Chair, Laws, Rules and Government Services Committee**

**and Committee Members, Ulster County Legislature**

c/o Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk of the Legislature, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York 12401

**Re: Resolution No. 480.1 and Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2026. Comment in support.**

Dear Chair Stewart, Chair Levine, and Committee Members,

I own Hudson Valley Botanicals, a kratom company in Dutchess County that has operated since 2017 and sells to customers and retailers across New York, including in Ulster County. I have a commercial interest in this legislation and want that on the table first.

I am writing in support of Resolution No. 480.1, which would set the public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2026 for November 17, and of the local law as drafted. I have written to several New York counties this year asking them to narrow blanket prohibitions. This is the one I am asking to leave as it is.

**The bill draws the line where the rest of government has drawn it.** Its thresholds, 7-OH above two percent of total alkaloid content or one milligram per serving, are the thresholds in S8925-A, which passed the Senate 61 to 0 and the Assembly 132 to 0 in June and has not yet been delivered to the Governor. They are also the thresholds in Dutchess County's Local Law No. 6 of 2026, which its Legislature passed without recorded opposition on August 10 and its County Executive signed in September after she had proposed a full ban. And they follow the line the DEA drew in July, when it moved to schedule concentrated 7-OH so that natural leaf falls outside the order.

**The risk I see is not that this bill fails but that it is broadened.** Albany County prohibited all kratom by health order on September 1, and Rensselaer County's full prohibition was signed into law this month. If the committees are asked to expand Local Law No. 16 to reach the plant, I would ask you to decline, for three reasons.

**First, a concentration limit can be enforced.** An independent laboratory can establish 7-OH and total alkaloid content for any product, and the county can require that certificate where products are sold. A prohibition on the plant produces no test results.

**Second, a plant ban does not reach the products of concern.** Concentrated and synthetic 7-OH is made elsewhere and shipped in. Prohibiting leaf closes the retailers the county can inspect and leaves the mail untouched. Local Law No. 16 reaches the products themselves, wherever they are made.

**Third, the State already covers age and labeling.** New York has barred kratom sales to anyone under 21 since June 17, 2026, and its labeling and ingredient disclosure requirements take effect December 19. Local Law No. 16 adds the concentration limit that framework does not yet carry.

My own products are leaf only. I have never sold 7-OH concentrates or synthetic derivatives. Every batch is tested by an independent laboratory with the results published, and I block shipments to every jurisdiction that prohibits these products. Under Local Law No. 16 as drafted, nothing I sell would change. I am grateful to the sponsors for drafting the law this way, and I would be glad to answer questions in writing from any member.

**Respectfully, Scott Urbin | Owner, Hudson Valley Botanicals LLC**

Enclosure: Dutchess County Local Law No. 6 of 2026, text as introduced (Resolution No. 2026136)