

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to express my extreme dismay and concern over the possibility that the natural plant Kratom is being considered by the DEA for banning, as a dangerous drug of addiction. Let me explain some of the actions and known effects of Kratom (*Mitragyna Speciosa*):

- Kratom is a tree native to Southeast Asia, whose leaves have been used as a natural medicine for thousands of years.
- In small doses it provides an energy boost – it's a botanical cousin of coffee, but higher doses have a sedative and analgesic (*pain relieving*) effect
- Its main use is as an effective natural pain reliever and anti-depressant
- Hundreds of testimonials have been written about kratom's efficacy in treating:
  - chronic pain
  - diabetes
  - fatigue
  - depression
  - lack of energy
  - withdrawal symptoms of opiate and alcohol addiction<sup>1</sup>.
- Kratom is **non-addictive**, and has **few side effects**
- It is less addictive than expensive prescription painkillers such as Vicodin, morphine or Oxycodone.
- Users report that it is “less addictive than coffee”<sup>2</sup>, with those in middle-age being the most frequent and enthusiastic proponents of kratom's benefits.

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Despite all these wonderful effects, this plant is in danger of being banned in the US by the Drug Enforcement Administration. **Ironically their reason for banning this wonderfully safe medicine is that it poses a 'health risk'**. Kratom is used recreationally by some people, and recent scares surrounding the synthetic drug 'bath-salts' have led to increased scrutiny on a number of legal substances and plants. This age-old medicine is being lumped in with dangerous, unknown synthetic substances, and is under threat of criminalisation. If this criminalisation occurs, countless sufferers of illness and pain could lose access to a vital remedy that they have been using safely for years.

Like any plant or medicine, when one regularly ingests excessive amounts of a substance there is a potential for harm. This is true of countless products available for sale in pharmacies and liquor stores today, but few would argue that this means they should be outlawed. If kratom is abused – taken daily in very high doses – it can be mildly addictive, and can also cause “nervousness, sleeplessness, loss of libido, constipation and the

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1 <http://www.kratomassociation.org/kratom-testimonials>

2 <http://www.forbes.com/sites/daviddisalvo/2012/09/22/is-kratom-the-new-bath-salts-or-just-an-organic-pain-reliever-with-euphoric-effects/>

darkening of skin complexion”<sup>3</sup>. However, there have been no recorded deaths due to the use of kratom, which highlights its safety.

A case can certainly be made for the restriction of sale of kratom to minors, and responsible vendors have called for self-policing and an industry code of conduct. Senator A.G. Crowe recently withdrew a proposal to outlaw the sale of kratom in Louisiana after hundreds of people signed a petition against the plan, however he plans to put forward legislation to instate a minimum age of 18 for anybody purchasing the leaf – a move that is presumably not opposed by the majority of those who responsibly use kratom.

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The Happy Herb Company promotes the protection of people's right to use all natural plants. We have seen time and time again that prohibition simply worsens the social impact of drug use, causing further health risks for users and providing criminal gangs with money that could instead be directed towards tax coffers. Our knowledgeable and concerned staff deal individually with every customer to ensure that they are informed as to the the safe and appropriate use of all our herbal products.

Public health should be not seen through a lens so narrow that it that disregards practically all alternatives to Western medicine and pharmaceutical drugs. We call upon citizens, policymakers, and politicians to support the reform of archaic drug policy for the benefit of society, and to respect people's innate right to use all natural plants and herbs. Kratom is no exception!

For more details see our website: [www.HappyHerbCompany.com](http://www.HappyHerbCompany.com)

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3 <http://www.kratom.com>