

**Public Hearing Testimony
Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary
S.B. 1005 -3**

April 5, 2019

Good morning, Honorable Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jenn Lauder, and I am the Director of Marketing and Advocacy for PDX Aromatics. We are a small, family-owned botanicals company based in Portland. We sell coffee, teas, essential oils, and herbal products like kratom. I'd like to first thank you for taking a closer look at kratom and at reasonable regulations for the kratom industry that would prioritize the health and safety of Oregon's citizens.

Kratom is a plant in the same family as coffee, and it grows primarily in Southeast Asia. Its leaves have been consumed for centuries by native populations in those areas, usually chewed or brewed into tea. In the United States, it is estimated that five million or more people use kratom regularly, typically by making tea with ground or powdered plant leaves. For the most part, kratom consumers are professional adults who use this botanical as a part of their daily routines to promote general wellness.

These consumers deserve access to safe and pure kratom products that enhance their lives, as well as protection from contaminated or improperly labeled products, or overblown and inaccurate claims.

I am here today to assure you that the health and safety of our customers is our primary concern, a concern that is shared by all legitimate, responsible kratom vendors. We strongly believe, based on abundant historical and scientific evidence, that kratom is a safe botanical. But we also know that proper processes must be in place to ensure the safety and purity of these products for all consumers.

To that end, we adhere to a number of standards to keep our customers safe. We operate an ODA-registered dry foods facility, are third-party audited for compliance with current Good Manufacturing Practices as defined by the FDA, and have achieved GMP Qualified Vendor status from the American Kratom Association. This means that, among other things, we implement:

- Environmental controls and rigorous sanitation and handling procedures,
- Comprehensive lab testing to guarantee purity and identify any possible contamination before products are introduced to the market,
- Proper labeling that accurately displays the identity of the product and its ingredients,
- Responsible marketing that avoids any therapeutic or medical claims,
- Age restrictions that prevent the sale of our products to minors.

Thanks to the efforts of American Kratom Association to push compliance, the kratom industry is moving toward adopting these standards on a large scale. The majority of kratom companies take their customers' safety seriously and are committed to responsible practices such as these. We would like to see the few "bad actors" who endanger public health put out of business as much as you would. We support self-regulation in our industry and welcome the reasonable safeguards that S.B. 1005-3 would require of kratom vendors.

Thank you again for your time and your consideration of kratom and its place in the lives of Oregonians. I urge you to vote yes on S.B. 1005-3 so that kratom consumers in our state can be protected from contaminated and misbranded products, and so that responsible and compliant businesses such as ours can continue to provide our customers with safe, pure products.

Respectfully,

Jenn Lauder

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