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NPAinfo.org

NEWS RELEASE

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NPA Tells Drug Enforcement Agency that Kratom Poses Threat to Public Health, Could Cause Serious Unintended Consequences as Nation Struggles with Opioid Addiction

NPA Touts Strong Safety Record of Dietary Supplement Industry in Comments to U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In formal comments to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) the Natural Products Association (NPA) said that adding kratom to the U.S. food supply could likely be dangerous, leading to serious unintended consequences as our nation struggles with the crisis of opioid addiction.

DEA announced its intention to classify kratom as a Schedule I substance on August 31, 2016. On October 12, 2016, the DEA announced that it would hold an [open comment period until December 1, 2016](#). NPA's comments can be viewed in full [here](#).

Excerpts from NPA's Executive Director and CEO Dr. Dan Fabricant's comments to DEA:

"Adding an untested and unregulated substance such as kratom to our food supply without the application of longstanding federal rules and guidelines would not only be illegal, it could likely be dangerous, leading to serious unintended consequences as our nation struggles with the crisis of opioid addiction."

"The safety record of the dietary supplement and natural products industry is far superior to prescription drugs or even conventional foods because of a strong federal regulatory regime, significant investment in product safety and quality, consumer demand and self-regulatory programs developed by the men and women of our industry, who want to help people lead healthier lifestyles."

"NPA strongly supports the prosecution of criminal activity, and has robust internal measures and quality assurance programs to report bad actors to authorities."

"As former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials and regulators of the dietary supplement industry, we can tell you that finished kratom products and raw kratom botanical ingredients have not met the strict standards products and new ingredients must adhere to in order to be marketed to the public and deemed safe for regular use in either our food or our drug supply."



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“Self-medicating with kratom is dangerous without the necessary pre-market approval process set forth by our public health experts at FDA. Even if kratom were delivered as a food, kratom has never been filed as a new dietary ingredient to FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.”

Natural Products Association

The **Natural Products Association (NPA)** is *the* trade association representing the entire natural products industry. We advocate for our members who supply, manufacture and sell natural ingredients or products for consumers. The Natural Products Association promotes good manufacturing practices as part of the growth and success of the industry. Founded in 1936, NPA represents over 1,400 members accounting for more than 10,000 locations of retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors of natural products, including foods, dietary supplements, and health/beauty aids. Visit www.NPAinfo.org. Follow NPA on social media:

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