



City of Petersburg

Office of the Mayor
City Hall

Suite 210
Petersburg, VA 23803

October 15, 2025

Dear Dean,

As Mayor of the City of Petersburg, I am writing to join you in my strong support for legislation that would prohibit the retail sale of *kratom* throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Kratom is often marketed as a harmless herbal supplement, but in reality, it has caused devastating harm in communities across our state and nation. Law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, and families in Petersburg have witnessed firsthand the destructive effects this unregulated substance can have on individuals' lives—leading to addiction, job loss, family breakdown, and, in some cases, tragic loss of life.

Our community has worked hard to promote recovery, hope, and opportunity for those struggling with substance use. Allowing kratom to be sold openly in gas stations and smoke shops undermines these efforts. It sends a dangerous message to our youth that addictive and mind-altering substances can be casually purchased alongside everyday consumer goods.

Virginia has an obligation to protect its citizens, especially our young people and most vulnerable residents from substances that have no legitimate medical purpose and carry serious public health risks. I agree with you that we need to ban the retail sale of kratom statewide.

Together, we can stand for safer, stronger, and healthier communities across Virginia.

Sincerely,

Samuel Parham, Mayor
City of Petersburg