From:	Eve Wolf
To:	Public Testimony
Cc:	MayorQ; Foster, Katrina; Robinson, Melissa; Magana, Araceli; Rogers, Wes; Berry, Rita
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I get so frustrated by this onslaught that I believe is not in good faith. I feel the need to shine a light on this.

Imagine if you owned the access to a plant that got rid of pain as well as an opioid, was addictive as coffee, as deadly as a pot brownie (sugar is more lethal), and people who were addicted to alcohol and opioids could safely use it to get off of those substances and get their life back. You would make billions. That's an endless goldmine.

Do you think people might play dirty to get that goldmine? Do you think they would try everything they could think of?

What would it take to get this control? It would take this plant being demonized and labeled a Schedule I drug. Then the only people who have access to it is the pharmaceutical industry. And it would then be the FDA who decides whose drug made from this plant gets to market.

Did you know the employees of the FDA and NIH generally come from academia or the private sector, where they usually return after their government tenure?

Did you know that prior to the Bahy-Dole Act of 1980, it was the federal government who owned the patent rights on research funded by our tax dollars? The Bayh-Dole act allowed universities, non-profits and small businesses to own the patents, even though the research is funded by our tax dollars, and with no stipulation on the profits that could be made.This has had some unintended consequences, among those, shifting the focus from pure science to profit, and the "pay twice" scenarios - consumers pay taxes funding research and then again through high prices for patented products developed from that research.

Please note:

- The only time the FDA requested the DEA make something a Schedule I drug and they declined was kratom. The DEA did the research, and the science didn't back it up.
- Instead of acknowledging the science and this decision, certain parties in the U.S. decided to take it to the U.N and ask them for a worldwide ban. The WHO's Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) ending up declining to take it up, sighting inadequate evidence.
- The Missouri State Legislature passed the Kratom Consumer Protection Act a few years ago, but Governor Parsons vetoed it - sighting false information. The legislature passed this law because that is what the constituents wanted and they found no scientific research against this.
- I had an appt. at the KU cancer clinic a few yrs ago. My doctor mentioned that a lot of his cancer patients use kratom.

I think it's notable that a trained medical professional, a doctor (Dr. Scott Gottlieb), who had the responsibility and bully pulpit of heading the FDA would not know what an opioid was. Yet he repeatedly demonized a botanical as an opioid that was actually a different plant with a different chemical makeup that affected the body in a different way.

I also find it notable that this same doctor would not know how to distinguish the cause of death. That he would claim 44 deaths due to kratom, yet when the FDA was required to make public this information, all but one had other causes of death (the one lacked sufficient information), such as one person who hung themself, 9 deaths in Sweden between 2009 and 2010 where an independent scientific review concluded the deaths were the result of spiking powdered kratom leaves with a lethal concentration of the mu opioid receptor agonist O-desmethyltramadol[vii.], etc,etc See links below

And again, I find it notable that before his tenure at the FDA, Dr. Gottlieb was a partner at New Enterprise Associates, a global venture capital firm that invests in technology and healthcare companies. He is now on the board of Pfizer, UHC, and BioPharmaDrive.

And he is not the only person with such conflicts of interest. I'm just making observations of facts. Draw your own conclusions. But kratom would definitely be a goldmine to control. Personally, I think the healthcare industry gets enough of our money.

I can say from my own personal experience that kratom is safe. I have used it for years for the unbearable pain & sickness of Lyme disease. I have never felt a craving from it. I used to be light smoker. I remember those cigarette cravings. I've never felt that with kratom. I only take it when I feel the pain building up. And it has benefited me greatly in enabling me to hold down a job. I support myself, and that's crucial. I know there are so many people in the same situation. If you took kratom away from all of us who suffer in silence, it would do so much harm. You'd have suicides because living with unbearable pain every day isn't tenable. People would no longer be able to work. People would turn to the black market to try and alleviate their pain. I don't think you can really understand what it's like to live with unbearable pain - pain that stops you from being able to function - unless you experience it. Please don't do this. Please pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act allowing safe, tested pure kratom leaf to be available to anyone over 18.