ROBERT P. BRESNAHAN JR.
8TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

1133 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–3808
(202) 225–5546

900 RUTTER AVENUE
BLDG. B, 1ST FLOOR, SUITE C, BOX 23
FORTY FORT, PA 18704
(570) 763–6120

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3808

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Terrance C. Cole
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice
8701 Morrissette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

Dear Administrator Cole:

We write today to strongly urge the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to initiate temporary emergency scheduling of chemically manipulated 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). This action is urgently needed to protect consumers from a rapidly expanding marketplace of dangerous synthetic products that are being deceptively sold as natural, despite having entirely different pharmacological effects and risks.

Since the July 29, 2025, recommendations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that directly targeted the 7-OH market, manufacturers of the synthetic products, have accelerated their marketing efforts. These products now commonly appear in fast-absorption formats such as sublingual and chewable tabs, rapid-dissolve tablets, and gummies.

These forms deliver 7-OH into the bloodstream within minutes, producing intense, opioid-like euphoria that dissipates quickly – encouraging compulsive redosing and dramatically increasing addiction liability.

Congress has already made clear its intent regarding this issue. In the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the recently enacted government-funding legislation, Congress stated:

"The conferees express grave concern regarding the proliferation of chemically manipulated derivatives of mitragynine, including high-concentration 7-hydroxymitragynine products, which pose significant and immediate public-health risks. The conferees strongly support swift administrative action by the Drug Enforcement Administration, consistent with the July 29, 2025, recommendation of the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent these potent synthetic substances from remaining accessible to consumers."

DEA's emergency-scheduling authority is the most effective tool available to immediately halt the spread of these synthetic products while the permanent scheduling is evaluated. Without swift

action, the proliferation of these high-risk substances will continue exposing consumers to opioid-class dangers.

We respectfully urge DEA to act without delay.

Sincerely,

Rob Bresnahan
Member of Congress

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "FDA Takes Steps to Restrict 7-OH Opioid Products Threatening American Consumers." HHS.gov. Accessed March 3, 2026. https://www.hhs.gov.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. "FDA Issues Warning Letters to Firms Marketing Products Containing 7-Hydroxymitragynine." FDA. Accessed March 3, 2026. https://www.fda.gov.

Johns Hopkins University. "De Facto Opioids: Characterization of Novel 7-Hydroxymitragynine and Mitragynine Pseudoindoxyl Product Marketing." Accessed March 3, 2026.

United States Congress. *Congressional Record—Senate*, November 9, 2025, S8051. https://www.congress.gov/119/crec/2025/11/09/171/189/CREC-2025-11-09-senate.pdf