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WRITTEN STATEMENT

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ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE
COMMERCE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

HF 2907
PFAS IN COOKWARE
OPPOSED

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Chairman Stephenson, Vice Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn, and members of the Committee, the **Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) strongly urges the committee to oppose HF 2907** which would ban cookware products from being sold in Minnesota if the products contain PFAS substances.

AHAM members produce hundreds of millions of products each year. They design and build products at the highest levels of quality and safety. As such, they have demonstrated their commitment to strong internal safety design, monitoring, and evaluation/failure analysis systems. Together with industry design practices, test requirements, and redundant safety mechanisms, flame retardant chemicals play an important role in the safety profile of household appliances.

The legislation would specifically prohibit the sale of cookware which contain PFAS. Among the issues with this legislation is the broad grouping of PFAS substances, which number in the thousands. With the entire class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom identified as a “PFAS substances,” there are hundreds of chemicals within that class that can have very different properties.

The broad grouping of PFAS is also inappropriate as it ignores other government agencies’ chemical-specific work. The Environmental Protection Agency is doing a more targeted assessment of PFAS under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). October 2021, EPA issued a notice of a proposed rule¹ to require certain entities that manufacture (including import) or have manufactured these chemical substances in any year since January 1, 2011, to electronically report information regarding PFAS uses, production volumes, disposal, exposures, and hazards. CPSC is also engaged in a process that more narrowly classifies organohalogen flame retardant, and AHAM urges Minnesota to allow these agencies to complete their work before acting.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written statement to the hearing record. AHAM strongly urges that this Committee reconsider whether or not legislation is in the best interests of Minnesota consumers. For future reference, my contact information is 202.872.5955 x328 or via electronic mail at jkeane@aham.org.

AHAM represents more than 150 member companies that manufacture 90% of the major, portable and floor care appliances shipped for sale in the U.S. Home appliances are the heart of the home, and AHAM members provide safe, innovative, sustainable and efficient products that enhance consumers’ lives. In Minnesota, the home appliance industry is a significant and critical segment of the economy. The total economic impact of the home appliance industry to Minnesota is \$3.6 billion, more than 20,000 direct and indirect jobs, \$468.5 million in state tax revenue, and more than \$1.2 billion in wages. The home appliance industry, through its products and innovation, is essential to consumer lifestyle, health, safety and convenience. Home appliances also are a success story in terms of energy efficiency and environmental protection.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/tsca-section-8a7-reporting-and-recordkeeping>