February 22, 20222

Dear Chair Stephenson and members of the committee,

Reuse Minnesota is submitting this letter in support of HF2907: PFAS prohibited in cookware.

Reuse Minnesota is a nonprofit dedicated to championing reuse in our state. Our membership includes small and large repair businesses, resale stores, and rental shops, as well as government entities, consultants, and individuals who support reuse. Minnesota is home to more than 10,000 reuse businesses that generate $5.8 billion each year. Their work helps our state avoid 2.7 million metric tons of CO_2 and reduces freshwater usage by 67 billion gallons annually.[1]

Reuse Minnesota supports prohibiting the manufacture or sale of new cookware containing PFAS chemicals in the state of Minnesota. While we appreciate the exemption on the resale of used items, the presence of these legacy chemicals in consumer goods creates an environmental and ethical dilemma in the reuse sector. These items become a moral burden for our thrift stores who have to decide if they want to sell such products to their customers or deal with the expense of disposal. For charitable organizations that rely on used goods to assist people who are in need of household items, pots and pans with PFAS become an environmental justice issue as they get passed on to communities that rely more heavily on secondhand items. Eliminating the use of PFAS chemicals in cookware manufacturing addresses these concerns upstream and in turn reduces the number of problematic items passed on to Minnesota reuse businesses.

Prohibiting the use of PFAS chemicals in cookware is a necessary action for our state to take in order to protect the health of Minnesotans and the environment. Reuse Minnesota appreciates your consideration of this bill and urges your support.

Sincerely,

Emily Barker
Executive Director

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[1] Reuse Impact Report, 2020