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WRITTEN STATEMENT

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ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS

COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE BUSINESS AFFAIRS & LABOR COMMITTEE

SB24-081
PFAS IN COOKWARE
SUPPORT IF AMENDED

APRIL 3, 2024

Chair Amabile, Vice Chair Ricks, and members of the Committee, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) strongly urges the committee to consider harmonizing commercial food equipment and residential food equipment under SB24-081 which would ban cookware products from being sold in Colorado 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 PFAS chemicals play an important role in the safety profile of household appliances in their great resistance to high temperatures. AHAM has conducted a member survey in a good faith effort to determine the extent to which PFAS is used in home appliances. AHAM members indicated portable and major kitchen appliances contain PFAS chemicals but in trace amounts, ranging from as low as 0.001 to 0.07 lbs. per unit. In almost all cases, the use of PFAS was confined to internal components and parts, such as bolts and washers, plastic brackets, and wire terminals with no direct exposure to consumers during use. This material is added during the manufacturing process, which reduces the potential for any consumer exposure during use or transmission to the environment.

In regard to the proposed cookware prohibition in SB24-081 which amends HB22-1345 which established a labelling program for cookware with intentionally added PFAS, AHAM recognizes the need to address PFAS that comes into contact with food being cooked in pots, pans, skillets, and utensils. During the Senate discussions, we understand the amendment to exclude food equipment primarily use in commercial settings in the 2026 ban and to push back the prohibition of commercial food equipment that comes into direct contact with food until 2028, but we raise questions around cookware in residential settings as restaurants and homes both cook food. **We request harmonization around the 2028 prohibition for food contact for residential cookware products.**

We also seek clarity around products listed as ‘cookware’. Clear definition of products is consistent with Colorado’s current law and harmonizing with California’s cookware disclosure law¹. In 2023, the State of Minnesota passed Amara’s Law which banned cookware with intentionally added PFAS in 2025. Just last month, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offered needed clarity around cookware products in scope² focused on the specifically listed items under cookware, or different forms of the listed items. **Manufacturers have begun to roll back PFAS in these products and we request a clear product list in the ban.** Potential language that builds off the proposed cookware language:

"Cookware" means pots, pans, skillets, grills, baking sheets, baking molds, trays, bowls, and cooking utensils that are intended to come in direct contact with food during food preparation with applied heat.

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1200

² <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/2025-pfas-prohibitions#cookware>

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written statement to the hearing record. AHAM wants to work with this Committee as it looks at this proposal. 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 Colorado, the home appliance industry is a significant and critical segment of the economy. The total economic impact of the home appliance industry to Colorado is \$1.7 billion, more than 11,000 direct and indirect jobs, \$260 million in state tax revenue, and more than \$610 million 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.