



1111 19TH STREET NW | SUITE 1150
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
AHAM.ORG

WRITTEN STATEMENT

JOHN KEANE
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

HOUSE BILL 2238
PFAS AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS

JUNE 3, 2024

Chair Vitali, Republican Chair Causer, and members of the Committee, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) strongly urges the committee to consider a clarifying amendment to HB 2238 which would ban products from being sold in Pennsylvania 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.

AHAM recognizes the need to address PFAS that comes into contact with food being cooked in pots, pans, skillets, and utensils. However, we seek clarity around products listed as 'cookware'. Under the proposed language, "The term includes a pot, pan, skillet, grill, baking sheet, baking mold, tray, bowl or cooking utensil." Clear definition would ensure compliance. In 2023, the State of Minnesota passed Amara's Law which banned cookware with intentionally added PFAS in 2025. Earlier this year, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offered needed clarity around cookware products in scope 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.

Secondly, among the other 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 would be under the potential 2033 ban. This includes hydrofluoroolefins (HFO's) and hydrochlorofluoroolefins (HCFO's) which are environmentally friendly foam blowing agents that is used in refrigeration and environmentally friendly refrigerants used in air conditioning. Refrigerant gases play a crucial role in maintaining the comfort and convenience we enjoy in our day-to-day lives. These specialized gases are an integral part of various cooling systems, including refrigerators, air conditioners, and heat pumps. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encouraged and effectively drove a transition to these and other low global warming potential (GWP) foam blowing agents

and refrigerants through ozone depletion and climate focused phase outs of CFC's, HCFC's, and HFC compounds. Ultimately, the use of such a broad definition could needlessly impose new requirements on products and technologies deemed safe and environmentally beneficial.

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 Pennsylvania, the home appliance industry is a significant and critical segment of the economy. The total economic impact of the home appliance industry to Pennsylvania is \$7.1 billion, more than 35,000 direct and indirect jobs, \$817 million in state tax revenue, and more than \$2.3 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.