

April 8, 2025

Chair Bennett and Vice-Chairs Phillips and Carson, and members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) strongly urges the committee to move forward on HB 6059 which would exempt polymer-coated cookware that the United States Food and Drug Administration authorizes for food contact from the statutory PFAS requirements applicable to consumer goods.

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.

The term PFAS encompasses in some instances as many as 12,000+ substances. However, the physical and chemical properties of the individual chemicals within this large group of compounds vary widely. One on which, that is used in the home appliance industry and is included in the current PFAS law applicable to cookware is fluoropolymers. Fluoropolymers are used nearly everywhere, in almost every major manufacturing sector (e.g., medical & aerospace) due to their inert and thermally stable properties. Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) is a fluoropolymer that is used in certain appliances and may be included in material that contacts food. Manufacturers use coatings that include a small amount of PTFE for water, scratch resistance, heat resistance, with good flexibility in manufacturing stage, as well as a long-life durability in use. PTFE pipes for transferring hot water are used because of their unique combined resistance to high pressure, high temperature and high durability under these conditions. In fact, the Food and Drug Administration has authorized fluoropolymers for use in food contact applications.¹ AHAM follows closely any recommendations from the FDA regarding safe food contact surfaces. AHAM wants to make certain that products that safe, FDA-approved products are still made available for Rhode Island consumers. This would ensure a national marketplace for these products.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written statement to the hearing record. AHAM strongly wants to work with the Committee to ensure this proposal moves forward. For future reference, my contact information is 202.872.5955 x328 or via electronic mail at jkeane@aham.org.

¹ <https://www.fda.gov/food/process-contaminants-food/authorized-uses-pfas-food-contact-applications>