

March 30, 2026

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 H. 7621 which would exempt products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS used as durable items that the United States Food and Drug Administration authorizes for food contact for consumer goods shall be exempt from the covered product PFAS prohibitions.

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 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 Eliminating PTFE from cookware and appliance components could also impose significant economic and environmental costs, while offering negligible improvements given PTFE's proven stability and FDA-approved use in food contact applications. 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

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

reference, my contact information is 202.872.5955 x328 or via electronic mail at jkeane@aham.org.

AHAM represents manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry. AHAM's membership includes over 150 companies throughout the world. AHAM members employ tens of thousands of people and produce more than 95% of the household appliances that are shipped for sale within the United States. 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. The purchase of new appliances often represents the most effective choice a consumer can make to reduce home energy use and costs.