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**Testimony
of
Kevin Messner
on behalf of
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers**

**Before the
Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
Oregon Senate**

**Hearing on SB 478
AN ACT relating to high priority chemicals of concern for children's
health; declaring an emergency.**

March 2, 2015

Chairman Edwards and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 478, relating to high priority chemicals of concern for children's health. **The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) is strongly opposed to SB 478 as currently drafted.**

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. In the U.S., AHAM members employ tens of thousands of people and produce more than 95% of the household appliances shipped for sale. The factory shipment value of these products is more than \$30 billion annually. The home appliance industry, through its products and innovation, is essential to improving a person's lifestyle and health, and saving people time. Through its technology, employees, and productivity, the industry contributes significantly to U.S. jobs and economic security. Home appliances also are a success story in terms of energy efficiency and environmental protection. New appliances often represent the most effective choice a consumer can make to reduce home energy use and costs.

AHAM appreciates that Oregon is striving to improve children's health. However, creating a patchwork of differing policies from state to state is not the most effective method to accomplish this goal. Washington (RCW 70.240.010) and Vermont (Title 18, Chapter 38A, §1772) have enacted laws in this area and have defined "children's product" to be as follows:

- i. Toys;*
- ii. Children's cosmetics;*
- iii. Children's jewelry;*
- iv. A product designed or intended by the manufacturer to help a child with sucking or teething, to facilitate sleep, relaxation, or the feeding of a child, or to be worn as clothing by children; or*
- v. Child car seats.*

SB 478 defines children's products differently, and as follows:

- i. A product designed or intended by the manufacturer to facilitate sucking, teething, sleep, relaxation or feeding.*
- ii. Children's clothing and footwear.*
- iii. Car seats.*
- iv. Children's cosmetics.*
- v. Children's jewelry.*
- vi. Kitchen merchandise.*
- vii. Toys.*

In SB478, the inclusion of "kitchen merchandise" in the definition of "children's product" is overly broad, undefined and inconsistent with the laws in Washington and Vermont. Kitchen merchandise could mean anything from a cooking timer to funnels. AHAM opposes SB 478, but if this committee does move forward with the bill, we would support the deletion of "kitchen merchandise" from SB 478.

AHAM appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Oregon Senate Bill 478 and would be glad to further discuss these matters.