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(54) **COOKING APPLIANCE AND METHODS OF NOTIFICATION**

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ABSTRACT

A cooking appliance may include a cabinet, a door, a control panel, a microwave module, a support pan, a presence detection sensor, and a controller. The support pan may be mounted within the cooking chamber to receive food items thereon. The presence detection sensor may be directed at the support pan and configured to detect one or more food items on the support pan. The controller may be in operable communication with the presence detection sensor and the control panel. The controller may be configured to direct an appliance operation including detecting the door in an open position, evaluating the presence detection sensor, detecting the door in a closed position following evaluation of the presence detection sensor, and directing the control panel according to the evaluation in response to detecting the door in the closed position.

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