

By: Corte

H.C.R. No. 11

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Indoor air contamination in the form of mold has
2 become a major health concern among home, school, and office
3 settings in Texas and other states, contributing to a condition
4 commonly known as "sick building" syndrome; and

5 WHEREAS, While many ordinary indoor molds that give rise to
6 minor allergic reactions have long been with us, attention now
7 focuses on more insidious types that can breed chronic allergies,
8 aggravate asthma, provoke memory loss, cause fever or rashes,
9 produce dizziness, trigger seizures or shortness of breath, sow
10 opportunistic lung infections in individuals with compromised
11 immune systems, or possibly play a role in the onset of pulmonary
12 hemorrhage in infants; and

13 WHEREAS, Certain molds can produce harmful microbial
14 volatile organic compounds; others, such as *Stachybotrys*,
15 *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Fusarium*, and *Trichoderma*, can produce
16 potent mycotoxins as a side effect of competitive chemical warfare
17 with other molds and bacteria; and

18 WHEREAS, Molds have no chlorophyll and need no sunlight; thus
19 they grow indoors wherever there is sufficient moisture and a food
20 supply, typically seeking out moist carpets, tile coverings, vinyl
21 and linoleum flooring, concrete and cinder block surfaces,
22 insulation, plasterboard, wood, books and papers, leather, cloth,
23 and other materials; and

24 WHEREAS, Water damage and poor ventilation, sometimes

1 resulting from faulty construction or renovation practices or even
2 energy efficiency measures, have yielded harmful molds and
3 attendant illnesses, including outbreaks of hypersensitivity
4 pneumonitis, forcing the abandonment of homes and the closing of
5 workplaces and educational institutions; and

6 WHEREAS, One result has been a legal and regulatory quagmire,
7 complicated by insufficient understanding of the hazard potential
8 of various molds and the lack of trustworthy standards for
9 assessing when mold levels are too high or when they have been
10 rendered inconsequential by sick-building remediation actions; and

11 WHEREAS, Homeowners and tenants, teachers and students,
12 office employees and visitors, property managers and owners,
13 builders and contractors, engineers and architects, and lawyers and
14 regulators would all benefit from the application of sound science
15 to the subject of mold toward the development of measures of risk
16 and hazard and the clarification of associated liability issues;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to
20 pursue research to quantify health risks and develop uniform
21 exposure guidelines applicable to molds and mold aggregations that
22 contribute to "sick buildings"; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
24 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
25 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
26 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
27 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this

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1 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
2 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.