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Thursday, July 17, 2003

Chamber Calls Mold Litigation A Growing Problem-Papers Conclude There's No S Evidence To Support Lawsuits

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Chamber of Commerce today issued two pap the growing hazard of mold litigation and the lack of scientific evidence linking mold to h problems.

“Lawsuits over fungi fail to meet the test for sound science,” said Lisa A. Rickard, presid U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, which along with the Manhattan Institute’s Cer Legal Policy commissioned the papers. “Unfortunately, plaintiffs’ trial lawyers, with help media, are playing on the public’s fear of ‘toxic’ mold to generate litigation that costs all c

The insurance industry reports that it has paid billions of dollars for mold claims, and the Insurance Information Institute says more than 10,000 mold cases are pending nationwi percent increase from 1999. One recent mold lawsuit in Texas involving a single family r a \$32 million verdict against an insurer.

The serious health claims that pervade mold litigation – brain damage, lung hemorrhage cancer – cannot withstand scrutiny under the “reliable science” standard set by the U.S. Court in a 1995 case, according to attorneys Cliff Hutchinson and Robert Powell in “Mol Litigation: How Hysteria and Junk Science Built a Cottage Industry.” The paper reports of the fear about mold has been perpetuated by media accounts, which in turn have fuel lawsuits.

In “A Scientific View of the Health Effects of Mold,” a team of scientists found that mold c reactions for those who are prone to allergies. Infections caused by mold are rare, exce those individuals who are “immune-compromised.” The study concludes that “there is n scientific evidence that mold causes ‘toxicity’ in doses found in home environments.”

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business federation representing than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector and region. The m the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform is to make America’s legal system simpler, faster for everyone.

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[The Growing Hazard of Mold](#) (PDF)

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