

**FLEISHMAN  
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August 23, 1988

Ms. Mary Lord  
Business Editor  
U.S. News & World Report  
2400 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037-1196

Dear Ms. Lord:

**"Modern Buildings Risk Respiratory Infections"  
"Indoor Air Pollution Claims Victims at EPA"  
"Californian Wins Indoor Illness Claim"**

You've probably seen stories about "sick buildings" -- buildings in which indoor air pollution threatens the health of their occupants -- but did you know that **commercial business owners and building managers can be found liable** for employee illnesses resulting from sick buildings?

A recent **\$600,000 settlement** awarded to a California man claiming illness from indoor air pollution has building managers and employers throughout the country worried about liability stemming from sick buildings. Similar cases are pending in Florida and Alaska.

As a result, many **banks and insurance companies are now requiring indoor air inspections** before approving building loans or insuring building owners in order to minimize financial liability from sick buildings.

The problem of indoor air pollution has become so great that many consider it **the workplace issue of the 1980s and 90s**, with implications for worker productivity and labor relations, in addition to public health and liability.

Chemist **Gray Robertson** has pioneered the diagnosis and cure of "sick buildings" as founder and president of ACVA Atlantic Inc. of Fairfax, Virginia. Robertson and ACVA have studied hundreds of buildings, including the U.S. Supreme Court, Scotland Yard, The Washington Post, and several major hospitals, and found that as many as half of the public buildings in America are sick, endangering the lives of those who work, live, and play in them.

**The sickness, poor air quality**, is most often the result of faulty ventilation caused by poor building design and construction, inadequate maintenance of heating and cooling systems, and even energy conservation measures.

**Gray Robertson** brings new dimension and awareness to the concept of "total workplace environment," and **would be available to interview** on this important topic. I will be in contact with you within the week regarding your interest.

Sincerely,

*W. Brett Gray*

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Enclosures