Sonoco Board Elects New Director

February 9, 2001

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Feb. 9 /PRNewswire/ -- Thomas E. Whiddon, executive vice president of logistics and technology for Lowe's Companies, Inc. (NYSE: LOW), Wilkesboro, N.C., has been elected unanimously by the Sonoco (NYSE: SON) Board of Directors to fill an unexpired term on the Board, it was announced today by Charles W. Coker, chairman. Whiddon's election as a director is effective February 7, 2001. The Board of Directors has also nominated him for election at the annual meeting of shareholders in April 2001.

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"We are delighted that Tom Whiddon has agreed to join our board of directors. With responsibility for overseeing Lowe's distribution and inventory replenishment functions, management information services and Internet business group, he is leading Lowe's strategy of enhancing service to its customers by building on its world-class logistics function through an integrated logistics and technology network. We believe his expertise will be extremely valuable to Sonoco as we seek to retain and enhance our technological leadership within our industry," said Coker.

Whiddon joined Lowe's in 1996 and previously served as executive vice president and chief financial officer, with responsibility for the finance, treasury, corporate accounting, corporate credit, tax and risk management departments.

Prior to joining Lowe's, Whiddon was employed by Zale Corporation, most recently as senior vice president and chief financial officer. Before joining Zale, he served as vice president and treasurer of Eckerd Corporation. Earlier in his career he was a tax partner at KPMG, Peat Marwick.

Whiddon graduated magna cum laude, with a B.S. degree in accounting from the University of Alabama in 1974.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.7 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 275 operations in 33 countries serving customers in 85 nations. Additional information about the Company is available at www.sonoco.com.
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CAPTION: CHF005 SONOCO THOMAS WHIDDON Thomas E. Whiddon, board of directors of Sonoco. (PRNewsFoto)[AG] HARTSVILLE, SC USA 02/09/2001