Sonoco Board Elects New Director

July 17, 2002

HARTSVILLE, S.C., July 17 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- John H. Mullin, III, chairman of Ridgeway Farm LLC, Brookneal, Va., a privately held business engaged in timber activities and farming, has been elected unanimously by the Sonoco (NYSE: SON) Board of Directors effective July 17, 2002, it was announced today by Charles W. Coker, chairman.

(Photo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20020717/CHW015

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"We are extremely pleased that John Mullin has agreed to join our Board of Directors. He brings a strong background of entrepreneurial success combined with a 20-year career in investment banking and service on boards of directors of companies in packaging, real estate, energy, insurance, broadcasting and finance. John will bring knowledge in a number of disciplines important to Sonoco's continued growth," said Coker.

After four-years of service as an officer in the United States Navy, Mullin joined the investment banking firm of Dillon, Read & Co. Inc., New York City, in 1969, where he enjoyed a 20-year career serving such major corporate clients as R. J. Reynolds and General Mills. In 1989, he elected to move into an entrepreneurial role with Ridgeway Farm, Brookneal, Va.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Mullin is a 1963 graduate of Washington & Lee University and received his M.B.A. in finance in 1969 from The Wharton Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Alex Brown Realty, Inc., a privately owned real estate company in Baltimore, Md.; The Liberty Corporation, Greenville, S.C., a broadcasting company; Progress Energy, Inc., Raleigh, N.C.; and serves as a trustee for The Putnam Funds, Boston, Mass.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.6 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 300 locations in 32 countries, serving customers in 85 nations. More information about the Company can be obtained through its Web site at www.sonoco.com.

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CAPTION: CHW015 SONOCO JOHN MULLIN John H. Mullin, III, Sonoco board of directors. (PRNewsFoto)[TC] HARTSVILLE, SC USA 07/17/2002