Sonoco Names Sullivan Executive Vice President and Charles Hupfer Senior Vice President

April 21, 2005

HARTSVILLE, S.C., April 21 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Charles L. Sullivan, formerly senior vice president, has been elected executive vice president, and Charles J. Hupfer, formerly vice president and chief financial officer and corporate secretary has been elected senior vice president and chief financial officer and corporate secretary, it was announced today by Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer, Sonoco (NYSE: SON).

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Sullivan, 61, has global operating responsibility for the Company's businesses serving consumer markets, including Sonoco's rigid paper and plastic containers, flexible packaging, closures, Pack Centers, point-of- purchase and fulfillment, graphics management and laser-engraved printing cylinders. He also serves as a member of the Company's executive committee.

"Under Charles' leadership, our global market leading composite can business is enjoying a significant resurgence led by new products and technological applications; he launched Sonoco's growing rigid plastic container business; he helped guide flexible packaging through a major expansion period and into its current growth mode; he successfully led the Company into the steel easy-open closures business and into point-of-purchase and fulfillment, and he has overseen the domestic and European expansion of packaging services," said DeLoach.

Sullivan joined Sonoco in 2000 after 19 years of service with Cargill, an international marketer and processor of agricultural, financial and industrial products, including positions as regional director of Cargill Asia/Pacific and as president of Cargill's Salt Division.

Sullivan, a native of Hartsville, currently serves as vice chairman of the Coker College Board of Trustees and as chairman of the Associate Member Council of the Grocery Manufacturers Association. He previously served on the President's Advisory Council of the Grocery Manufacturers Association, as chairman of the Salt Institute and as a member of its CEO Council and as past president of the Board of Directors of the YMCA of the Upper Pee Dee

Hupfer, 58, joined Sonoco in 1975. He was named chief financial officer in 2002 and previously served as vice president, treasurer and corporate secretary from 1995 - 2002 and as treasurer from 1988 - 1995. He also serves on the Company's executive committee.

"In his role as CFO, Charles has been instrumental in the planning and completion of acquisitions such as Phoenix Packaging Corp., one of the largest producers of steel easy-open closures, and CorrFlex Graphics, LLP, one of the largest point-of-purchase companies in North America. He also played a major role in completing the joint venture with Ahlstrom Corporation, Finland, that combines the two companies' respective European tube, core and paperboard operations, and in negotiating an important new joint venture agreement with Demolli of Italy," said DeLoach.

A native of Lincolnton, North Carolina, Hupfer is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Management Accountant. He holds a BS degree in Accounting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MBA degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He currently serves as a member of the Byerly Foundation, Hartsville, and previously served as a member of the Coker College Board of Trustees, Hartsville.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $3.2 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with over 300 operations in 35 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. Additional information about the Company is available at http://www.sonoco.com .

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