Sonoco Board Declares Increase in Common Stock Dividend

April 18, 2007

Dividend Raised for the 25th Consecutive Year, Payout Increased 8.3 Percent

HARTSVILLE, S.C., April 18 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- The Board of Directors of Sonoco (NYSE: SON) today declared a regular $.26 per share quarterly common stock dividend, an increase of 8.3 percent, from $.24 per share. The dividend will be payable June 8, 2007, to shareholders of record as of May 18, 2007.

This is the 25th consecutive year Sonoco has increased common stock dividends and the 328th consecutive quarter, dating back to 1925, that the Company has paid dividends to shareholders. Over the past 25 years, the Company's annual dividend has grown on a split-adjusted basis from $.108 per share in 1982 to a projected annualized amount of $1.04 per share. Based on the average closing price of the Company's common stock year-to-date, projected annual dividends provide a yield of 2.7 percent.

Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer, said, "The Board's decision to increase the quarterly dividend by 8.3 percent reflects its confidence in the Company's long-term growth strategy and business performance. In addition, our solid financial condition and strong cash flow from operations support our capital requirements, fuel investments for growth and enable us to return value to shareholders."

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a $3.7 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 35 countries, serving customers in some 85 nations. For more information on the Company, visit our Web site at http://www.sonoco.com.

Forward-looking Statements

Statements included herein that are not historical in nature, are intended to be, and are hereby identified as "forward-looking statements" for purposes of the safe harbor provided by Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The words "estimate," "project," "intend," "expect," "believe," "consider," "plan," "anticipate," "objective," "goal," "guidance" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding adequacy of cash flows, anticipated amounts and uses of cash flows, financial strategies and the results expected from them, continued payments of dividends, stock repurchases and producing improvements in earnings.

These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about our industry, management's beliefs and assumptions made by management. Such information includes, without limitation, discussions as to guidance and other estimates, expectations, beliefs, plans, strategies and objectives concerning our future financial and operating performance. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in such forward-looking statements.

The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise forward- looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Additional information concerning some of the factors that could cause materially different results is included in the Company's reports on forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Such reports are available from the Securities and Exchange Commission's public reference facilities and its Web site, http://www.sec.gov, the Company's investor relations department and the Company's Web site, http://www.sonoco.com.

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