Sonoco's Board Declares Increase in Common Stock Dividend

April 16, 2008

Cash Dividend Raised for the 26th Consecutive Year

HARTSVILLE, S.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 16, 2008--The Board of Directors of Sonoco (NYSE: SON) today declared a $.27 per share quarterly common stock dividend, an increase from $.26 per share. The dividend will be payable June 10, 2008, to shareholders of record as of May 16, 2008.

According to Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer, this is the 26th consecutive year that Sonoco has increased common stock dividends and 332nd consecutive quarter, dating back to 1925, that the Company has paid dividends to shareholders. Based on the Company's closing common stock price on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, of $29.41, Sonoco's projected new annualized dividend of $1.08 per share provides a yield of approximately 3.7 percent.

"This dividend increase demonstrates the Board of Director's confidence in Sonoco's strong balance sheet, continued profitable growth and cash generation capabilities, and commitment to building value for our shareholders," said DeLoach.

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a $4.0 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with 334 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/.

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