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Sonoco Named One of 2009's 100 Best Corporate Citizens

HARTSVILLE, S.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Mar. 11, 2009-- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, is ranked number 27 on *Corporate Responsibility Officer (CRO)* magazine's recently released 100 Best Corporate Citizens List[®] for 2009.

CRO's 100 Best Corporate Citizens List is the only such list based on 100-percent, publicly available information and ranks Russell 1000[®] companies on their performance in seven key areas: environment, climate change, human rights, philanthropy, employee relations, financial and governance. The 100 Best Corporate Citizen List methodology places a premium on companies with high levels of public disclosure and transparency.

"We are extremely pleased to be included on this prestigious list," said Harris E. DeLoach Jr., Sonoco chairman, president and chief executive officer. "It means that our commitment to sustainability, belief that our employees build businesses, community outreach efforts, financial results and ongoing transparency are being recognized and that is very gratifying for all of our stakeholders."

According to *PR Week*, CRO magazine's 100 Best Corporate Citizens List is the third most important listing after Forbes' Best Places to Work and Fortune's Most Admired Companies. (*Fortune* magazine ranked Sonoco as its fifth most admired company in the packaging industry in 2009.)

Over the past nine years, companies on the 100 Best Corporate Citizens List have outpaced the remainder of the other Russell 1000 companies by an average of 26 percent in three-year total return.

"In good times, checkbook citizenship can win the day," said CRO magazine Publisher Jay Whitehead. "But in tough times, strong reputations and transparency pack as much punch as a strong balance sheet. In today's economic recession, human capital and financial capital seek safety—and companies on the 100 Best Corporate Citizens List are today's safest harbors."

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a \$4.1 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/>.

Source: Sonoco

Sonoco

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"Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Statements in this press release regarding Sonoco's business which are not historical facts are "forward-looking statements" that involve risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see "Risk Factors" in the Company's Annual Report or Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year.