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Statement on UPS Eco Responsible Packaging Program

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BSR, a global business network and consultancy focused on sustainability, works extensively with UPS and other companies on sustainable supply chain and transportation issues through programs such as the Clean Cargo Working Group and a wide variety of company- and grant-funded projects. We also have a strong understanding of sustainability reporting, stakeholder engagement, and labeling issues.

We were pleased when UPS, a BSR member for more than seven years, asked us to provide feedback on its new Eco Responsible Packaging Program. Based on our review of the program, in the context of the company's broader sustainability programs and commitments, we believe that it represents an important contribution to evolving industry practices in the area of supply chain sustainability.

While the Sustainable Packaging Coalition and others have introduced useful principles and programs to assist with the development of more sustainable packaging, there are few standards or clear criteria governing *transport* packaging and, as a result, its environmental impact is often overlooked. This UPS effort to define key criteria for green packaging, including such critical but commonly ignored criteria as damage prevention, will help raise the profile of transport packaging and encourage improvement in this area. This should result in reduced environmental impacts from the manufacture, use and disposal of transport packaging, as well as greater efficiencies and reduced impact from the overall logistics system.

As one of the world's leading shipping and logistics companies, UPS is in an excellent position to work with customers to understand and reduce the environmental impacts of goods transport. The company's effort to engage recognized independent packaging experts is a valuable addition to the program. These types of offerings from UPS and others will better enable companies and individuals to choose lower-impact options.

While the creation of the Eco Responsible Packaging Program is a welcome development, its continued evolution is even more important. Specifically:

- We support UPS's stated intention to engage with a broader range of stakeholders, including customers, industry peers, and NGOs, to further improve the program and catalyze the development of industry-wide standards.
- Similarly, we believe that greater transparency—via a published set of clear and understandable program criteria—will encourage greater trust and adoption of the program over time, as well as better enable stakeholders to provide valuable feedback that will enhance the program.

We look forward to continued progress in these areas. Programs such as the Eco Responsible Packaging Program can play an important role in our collective efforts to address the challenges that society faces, and we hope that companies like UPS continue to expand the work they are doing.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Olson".

Eric Olson
Senior Vice President
BSR