



KIRBY CORPORATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KIRBY CORPORATION ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STOCK
SALE PLAN BY ITS CHAIRMAN, C. BERDON LAWRENCE, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SEC RULE 10b5-1**

Houston, Texas (February 6, 2003) -- Kirby Corporation ("Kirby") (NYSE:KEX) announced today that its Chairman, C. Berdon Lawrence, has established a stock sale plan in accordance with SEC Rule 10b5-1, pursuant to which he will sell up to 600,000 shares of Kirby common stock. The plan is designed to allow such a sale in a regular and orderly manner over a six-month period. The shares represent approximately 14% of the 4,408,563 shares of Kirby common stock held by Mr. Lawrence and his family trusts, and approximately 2½% of Kirby's 24,067,000 common shares outstanding.

Mr. Lawrence commented, "I received my shares in 1999 when Kirby acquired my company, Hollywood Marine, Inc. The plan will allow me to liquidate a portion of my investment in Kirby and diversify some of my assets. I will continue to hold a substantial position in Kirby Corporation and will remain Kirby's largest stockholder. I believe in Kirby's management team and its ability to create substantial future value. I look forward to continuing as Chairman of the Board of Directors, remaining active and helping our management team create value for our shareholders."

Kirby Corporation, based in Houston, Texas, operates 909 inland tank barges and 215 towing vessels, transporting petrochemicals, refined petroleum products, black oil and agricultural chemicals throughout the United States inland waterway system. Through the diesel engine services segment, Kirby provides after-market service for large medium-speed diesel engines used in marine, power generation, industrial and rail applications.

Statements contained in this press release with respect to the future are forward-looking statements. These statements reflect management's reasonable judgment with respect to future events. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated as a result of various factors, including cyclical or other downturns in demand, significant pricing competition, unanticipated additions to industry capacity, changes in the Jones Act or in U.S. maritime policy and practice, fuel costs, interest rates, weather conditions, and timing, magnitude and the number of acquisitions made by Kirby. A list of additional risk factors can be found in Kirby's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.