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**Contact:**  
**Meredith R. Benton, Walden, (617) 726-7125**

## **Shareholders Urge Leggett & Platt to Adopt Inclusive Equal Employment Opportunity Policy**

**(BOSTON, MA)** – Socially responsive investors have filed a shareholder resolution requesting that Carthage, Missouri-based Leggett & Platt (NYSE: LEG) amend its equal employment opportunity policy to explicitly bar discrimination based on sexual orientation. The resolution will be voted at Leggett & Platt's annual meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2006.

“Leggett & Platt is on a shrinking list of major manufacturing companies refusing to adopt such a policy,” stated Meredith Benton, Research Associate at Boston-based Walden Asset Management, which is the lead filer of the resolution. More than 80 percent of Fortune 500<sup>®</sup> companies explicitly bar discrimination based on sexual orientation, according to Human Rights Campaign, including 98 of the Fortune 100. Major manufacturing companies with inclusive policies, as requested in the resolution, include Baldor Electric, Deere, Donaldson, General Electric, General Motors, Herman Miller, HON Industries, Illinois Tool Works, Teleflex and United Technologies, according to Human Rights Campaign.

Sixteen states, the District of Columbia, and more than 140 cities currently have laws prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Of the open positions posted by Leggett & Platt on Yahoo! HotJobs on March 30, 2006, thirty percent were located in cities or states with prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Ms. Benton stated, “Investors are concerned that, without a corporate-wide framework, miscommunication and inconsistencies may increase the risk of discrimination, harassment and litigation.”

National polls consistently find more than three-quarters of Americans support equal rights in the workplace for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. For example, in a Gallup poll conducted in June 2001, 85% of respondents favored equal opportunity in employment for gays and lesbians. Moreover, according to a recent survey by Harris Interactive and Witeck-Combs, 41% of gay and lesbian workers in the United States report facing some form of hostility or harassment on the job; almost one out of every 10 gay or lesbian adults also stated that they had been fired or dismissed unfairly from a previous job, or pressured to quit a job because of their sexual orientation. Employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation diminishes employee morale and productivity.

Ms. Benton added, “Firms with inclusive employment policies help ensure a respectful and productive atmosphere for all employees and enhance their competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining employees from the widest pool of talent. Leggett & Platt is competing for employees in the state of Missouri against companies with inclusive policies, such as Anheuser-Busch, Emerson Electric, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Hallmark Cards, Monsanto, and Sigma-Aldrich.”

Community Church of New York, The First Parish in Cambridge, Manhattan Country School, and Women's Equity Fund have joined Walden Asset Management in presenting this proposal.

Walden Asset Management (<http://www.waldenassetmgmt.com>) is the socially responsive investment division of Boston Trust & Investment Management Company. Founded in 1975, Walden has been a pioneer in socially responsive portfolio management on behalf of individual and institutional clients. Walden blends a disciplined investment style and expertise in social screening with a commitment to using its leverage as an investor to improve corporate social performance. It has been a Leggett& Platt shareholder for over 15 years.