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## **THE TELEGRAPH BECOMES FIRST NEWSPAPER IN GEORGIA TO PROVIDE ECO-FRIENDLY BAGS**

**Dallas, TX-- (October 1, 3:00 p.m. CST)** – GP Plastics Corporation, the leading manufacturer of polyethylene bags for the newspaper industry, announced today that The Telegraph will become the first newspaper in Georgia to utilize oxo-biodegradable bags, a leading-edge alternative to conventional plastic bags.

The Telegraph, founded in 1826, is located in Macon, GA, and is owned by The McClatchy Company, the third-largest newspaper company in the United States, and is dedicated to the values of quality journalism, free expression and community service. In addition to the daily newspaper, The Telegraph also produces The Sun News, Bibb Extra and Robins Rev-Up.

Bob Bumgarner, President of GP Plastics, said, “I congratulate the management of The Telegraph for its sensitivity to the environmental issues created by the use of conventional plastic bags. I am confident that readers and advertisers alike will appreciate the environmentally friendly action the Telegraph is taking by switching to oxo-biodegradable.”

“The Telegraph is pleased to partner with GP Plastics to provide biodegradable bags for all of our newspaper deliveries,” said George McCanless, President and Publisher of The Telegraph. “We already use 100% recycled paper and water soluble ink for the printing of The Telegraph. This is one more step in our efforts to be a proactive, responsible community citizen.”

According to Mike Skinner, CFO of GP Plastics, ““In order to ensure the delivery of dry papers to their subscribers, the domestic newspaper industry uses 6-7 billion bags per year. GP manufactures more than one-half of those bags and is working to convert all of them to our PolyGreen product.”

By some estimates, conventional plastic bags may remain in the environment for 500-1000 years. PolyGreen oxo-biodegradable bags, on the other hand, typically degrade in two to three years, depending on landfill conditions. When exposed to air, the bags degrade completely in a few months.

Oxo-biodegradation occurs as a result of a two-stage process. First, a proprietary additive causes the plastic to oxidize when exposed to oxygen, heat, sunlight or mechanical stress. The polyethylene molecules break down into smaller molecules, which are digested by microorganisms such as fungi or bacteria, leaving only water, carbon dioxide and biomass, which are all natural substances.

Results of tests at Willow Ridge Plastics in Erlanger, Kentucky, confirm that bags manufactured by GP Plastics containing its proprietary additive do meet the specification of an oxo-biodegradable plastic.

Because the bags are made from conventional plastics with a proprietary additive, they are compatible with the existing recycle stream. In addition, the bags also feature water-soluble inks and non-lead based color concentrates.

**About GP Plastics Corp:**

Formed in 1968, GP Plastics Corporation is the absolute leader in the manufacture of newspaper bags for home delivery and advertising. In addition to bundle covers for the newspaper industry, GP's other major product offerings include can liners for industrial, janitorial, and institutional applications and special packaging, including produce bags used in supermarkets and special event bags. GP Plastics has been recognized for its great quality and service in the industry.