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## **Bridgestone Statement in Response to Swedwatch Report**

**NASHVILLE** (February 19, 2021) – Firestone Liberia and its parent company, Bridgestone Americas, Inc., are wholly committed to supporting and promoting fundamental human rights and environmental protections, and to the continuing evolution of our business and corporate culture toward an even more sustainable and inclusive future. Further, we recognize the essential role that both public and private institutions play in promoting and protecting fundamental human and environmental rights, and we have and will continue to seek out productive dialogue with groups such as Swedwatch in order to advance our shared goals for a more sustainable future.

In reviewing the Swedwatch report, however, we are disappointed to find a multitude of assertions that we believe to be wholly inaccurate, sensational and altogether lacking in the kind of rigorous testing methodology and scientific analysis necessary to confer legitimacy. Moreover, the report omits the factual, transparent and detailed information provided to it by Bridgestone Americas, Inc. and Firestone Liberia and draws specious, unscientific and unsupported causal links between our operations in the region and issues within surrounding communities, substituting anecdote and supposition for good science.

Finally, we also wish to point out that Swedwatch, while purportedly having conducted a more than a one-year-long investigation, chose to engage with our company just weeks prior to the release of their report, leading us to question whether their actions are geared toward earning the public trust and fostering cooperative relationships or for other purposes.

Going forward, in the interest of transparency, we ask that Swedwatch fully disclose all of the underlying sampling data, methodologies, detailed sampling locations, and other materials related in order that we may conduct a more thorough analysis of the report and provide a more detailed accounting of its inaccuracies. We sincerely hope that through ongoing dialogue, along with a strong commitment to both transparency and rigorous pursuit of scientifically supported facts, we can ultimately work together to achieve better outcomes for society.

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