

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**E-Z Pack Holdings, LLC Acquires the Assets of Clean Earth Kentucky**

**Cynthiana, Kentucky – July 31, 2006** – E-Z Pack Holdings, LLC, a subsidiary of Republic Financial Corporation, announced today the acquisition of the assets of Clean Earth Kentucky, LLC, a Cynthiana-based manufacturer of refuse trucks. Republic Financial Corporation is a privately held company with investment interests in a diverse portfolio of operating companies. The acquisition offers stability for the business and for the customers of Clean Earth. E-Z Pack plans to hire most of the former employees of Clean Earth and hopes to continue to serve Clean Earth’s former customers. The liabilities of Clean Earth remain the responsibility of Clean Earth.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to acquire the E-Z Pack line of refuse trucks,” stated Jim Possehl, CEO of Republic Financial. “E-Z Pack’s products have a solid reputation in the refuse industry and we will be focused on growing the business.”

Republic has a specialized originations team that focuses on investing in a broad range of sub-performing and non-performing financial assets as well as under performing middle-market companies. Over the years, Republic has completed investment transactions in distressed commercial and industrial loans, commercial real estate loans, equipment leases and business assets impacted by bankruptcy. Republic's success is attributable to the significant amount of time, talent and resources spent analyzing, underwriting and managing the assets acquired. The company emphasizes tracking the markets in which it operates and gaining a detailed understanding of opportunities through extensive due diligence in order to maximize returns while mitigating risk.

“We want to continue to provide the type of value-added, highly customized trucks that Clean Earth’s customers have come to expect,” commented Francisc Nagy, national sales manager of E-Z Pack.

“We are very pleased with the stability Republic offers to its operating companies. This transaction provides us with an opportunity to improve operations as a benefit not only to our customers but also to the employees who live in the community,” stated Philip Daetwyler, CEO of E-Z Pack. “We look forward to working with the management team at Republic to grow the E-Z Pack business.”

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**About Republic Financial Corporation**

Republic Financial Corporation, located in Aurora, Colorado, is a privately held company with investment interests in a diverse portfolio of operating companies. Representative industries include promotional products, corporate staffing, construction aggregates, aviation, security software, telecommunications and data services. The company invests in troubled middle-market companies, small market buy-outs, early stage

venture capital, commercial debt and aviation assets. Since 1971, Republic has achieved commercial success by developing creative solutions to difficult and complex business situations. For more information visit [www.republic-financial.com](http://www.republic-financial.com).

**About E-Z Pack**

E-Z Pack Holdings, LLC, is a leading manufacturer of refuse trucks including front loaders, rear loaders, side loaders and recyclers. For more information contact Philip Daetwyler at 859-234-1100.