



KIRBY CORPORATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KIRBY CORPORATION TO PRESENT AT WELLS FARGO CONFERENCE AND
BANK OF AMERICA MERRILL LYNCH CONFERENCE**

Houston, Texas (May 3, 2012) -- Kirby Corporation ("Kirby") (NYSE:KEX) announced today that Kirby will present at the Wells Fargo 2012 Industrial and Construction Conference and the Bank of America Merrill Lynch 2012 Global Transportation Conference. Specifics of each conference are as follows:

Wells Fargo 2012 Industrial and Construction Conference

Location: New York, NY

Presenter: Joe Pyne, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Presentation date and time: Thursday, May 10, 2012, 8:30 a.m. EDT

Bank of America Merrill Lynch 2012 Global Transportation Conference

Location: Boston, MA

Presenter: Joe Pyne, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Presentation date and time: Thursday, May 17, 2012, 11:30 a.m. EDT

A live audio webcast of the presentations will be available to the public and a replay will be available after the presentations on Kirby's website, <http://www.kirbycorp.com>. A copy of the material prepared by Kirby for the presentations will be available at 7:00 a.m. central time on the day of the presentations on Kirby's website. A replay of the presentations will be available for 30 days.

Kirby Corporation, based in Houston, Texas, is the nation's largest domestic tank barge operator transporting bulk liquid products throughout the Mississippi River System, on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, along all three United States coasts, and in Alaska and Hawaii. Kirby transports petrochemicals, black oil products, refined petroleum products and agricultural chemicals by tank barge. Through the diesel engine services segment, Kirby provides after-market service for medium-speed and high-speed diesel engines and reduction gears used in marine and power generation applications. Kirby also distributes and services diesel engines, transmissions, pumps and compression products, and manufactures and remanufactures oilfield service equipment, including hydraulic fracturing equipment, for land-based pressure pumping and oilfield service markets.

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 number of acquisitions made by Kirby. Forward-looking statements are based on currently available information and Kirby assumes no obligation to update any such statements. A list of additional risk factors can be found in Kirby's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.