

# 2011: BY ALL INDICATIONS, A BANNER YEAR. RIGHT?



**Tim  
Gomes**

CEO  
Topaz Lighting & Electric

**M**ore recently, quite a few industries are finally reporting improving sales numbers. Some companies are even posting exceptional sales months, including, fortunately our own. Intel, Wal-Mart, most airlines, and many others have announced exceptional October gains with the announced intentions of hiring thousands. The auto industry, post bailout, is also showing a strong turnaround and return to profitability. The major stock indices have recovered all the way back to pre-Lehman failure levels and have been posting strong gains since early August. Increasing architectural billing, new housing starts, PPI, etc., and the relaxing of credit all portend a strong new year. Hey, maybe we'll even "catch-up" for some of the lost business of the last two to three years. Good times ahead! Good times.

What could possibly derail our economy's recovery and growth!

During the depths of this recession, the Dow halved, and fear, distrust, and a lack of confidence affected every aspect of the economy. It seemed conceivable the entire global economic system was at risk of collapse. Scary stuff. Then working with a new administration, Congress enacted aggressive measures to address the crisis. Regardless of your perspectives on these measures, the bottom line is

that the economy is now poised to return to prosperity after a very, very serious recession, in less than two years. This is fantastic news.

So what now can slow or prevent this?

Building on the successful mid-term electoral strategy of maintaining 100% unified opposition to anything the president supports, regardless of the issue, the new house majority has flatly stated they will continue the same political approach during this next session of congress in the hopes of taking the White House in 2012. The policy of "anything you are for, I must be completely against" will undoubtedly result in paralysis at a time when our country greatly needs focus and compromise. As a result, I believe the current growth will only continue until around June and then will flatten. Our economy likely will stagnate as industries and international markets remain unsure of U.S. Government policy, commitment and support.

I truly hope I'm wrong, as it would be a great shame if any political party placed its own electoral interests ahead of the nation's recovery during this critical time in our history. ■

Tim Gomes,  
CEO, Topaz Lighting & Electric  
Comments? Reply to [timgomes14@aim.com](mailto:timgomes14@aim.com).

