



As we look back on 2011, we can most certainly say we have come through some challenging times. Although Texas has fared far better than most other states with regard to the economy, we too have been forced to navigate our way through some extremely rough waters. When the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislative Session convened, the State of Texas was facing a projected budget short fall of around 25B. As daunting as that may have appeared, everyone put their heads together and came up with a balanced biennial budget for 2012-2013. By no means was this an easy task, only given gut wrenching compromise and pure determination was this achievable. Making tough decisions is not easy, but ultimately necessary. I am sure there are those that wish we could have done more, if we only had more to work with!

Now, turning our focus toward 2012, we begin the New Year cautiously optimistic that things are looking up. While the economy in Texas is seemly stable, events in our country and in other parts of the world continue to keep us on edge. We realize that worldwide events such as the debt crisis in the Euro Zone can have a significant impact on our future. The U.S. and other countries around the world face similar debt problems. Even though there is a desire to fix the problem, the mechanisms and the political resolve to make unpopular decisions appear to be missing.

With regard to the construction industry in Texas, some parts of the state have numerous construction projects, while others have few or none. For example, the much needed 1.2B dollar improvements to the IH35 corridor have been very beneficial to the Central Texas area. Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio have also seen more construction projects than most. That stands to reason, since these areas have some of the worst traffic congestion issues and are some of the larger cities with regard to population throughout the state.

As we continue to work our way through old and new challenges of 2012, I am certain that collectively we can and will find solutions to address them. The LAT would like to continue to be a partner by offering our assistance in providing proven construction and rehabilitation practices that not only reduce project costs, but extend long term performance and sustainability.

Please contact the LAT for information about our programs or for any questions regarding ***LIME... MAN'S MOST VERSATILE CHEMICAL.***

Sincerely,

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