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# "Turnaround Tom's" Top Picks and Outlook for 2025

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- 1.5 Decades in Hedge Funds Long/Short Equity
- Great Hill Capital, LLC Chairman & Managing Member
- Regular Media Appearances Fox Business, CNBCi, Yahoo! Finance, BBC, etc.
- Cornwall Capital, LP "The Big Short"
- COO Chief Operating Officer Public Company \$1.6B AUM
- Columbia University









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#### Who are we?

- Great Hill Capital, LLC runs a long/short equity strategy in SMA format for Accredited Investors and Qualified Institutions.
- We've developed a reputation over time for benefitting from sector, stock and general market dislocations and periods of distress.
- HedgeFundTips.com is where we post our weekly market outlook and research notes.
- "Hedge Fund Tips with Tom Hayes "podcast is ranked #1 in the Hedge Fund Category via feedspot

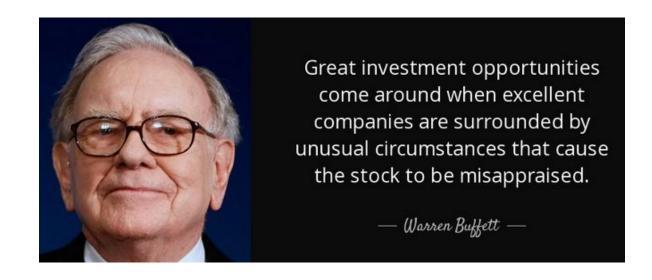
# Our Strategy (simplified)

We make our money buying on weakness and selling on strength.

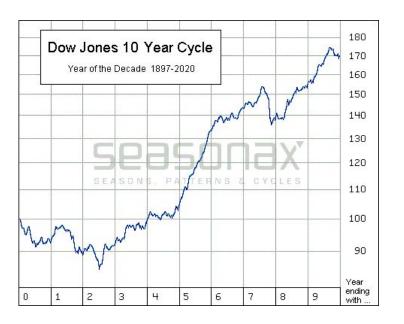
Our confidence to step in when others are bailing is rooted in deep research and the premise that the more price becomes dislocated the more risk that has COME OUT.

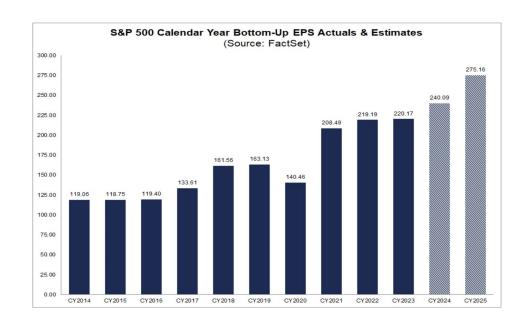
Most market participants see volatility as increased risk. We view it as increased OPPORTUNITY.

# **Our Investment Philosophy in a Nutshell:**



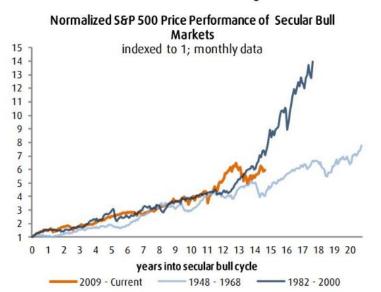
# **Seasonality and Earnings**



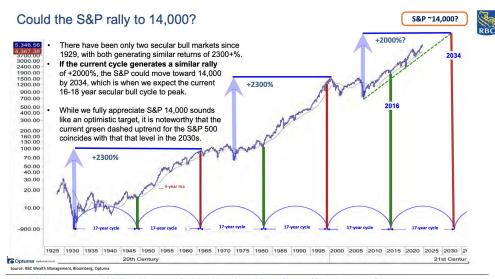


## Take The Long View (Demographics) UPSIDE!

Exhibit 7: The Secular Bull Market Has Been Reignited



Source: BMO Capital Markets Investment Strategy Group, FactSet.



August 5, 2024

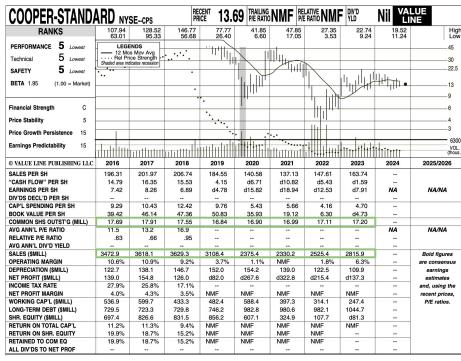
RBC Wealth Management Portfolio Advisory Group | Robert Sluymer, CFA - robert.sluymer@rbc.com

GREAT HILL CAPITAL

## **#1 Turnaround Tom Pick : Cooper Standard**







Built a position in Cooper Standard at a blended basis of ~\$5.50

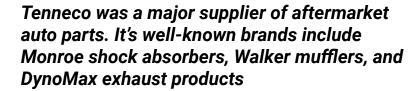


# A Little History... Charlie Munger's Tenneco Investment





- During Charlie Munger's "cigar butt" investment in Tenneco, the company had ~40 million shares outstanding, a market cap of about \$80 million, an enterprise value of ~\$1.6 billion, as well as total debt load of approximately ~1.52 billion
- Tenneco successfully <u>restructured its</u> <u>operations</u> through layoffs/plant closures and refinanced debt, taking solvency risk off the table
  - With EBITDA rebounding to the \$300-\$400 million range, comparable to levels from the late 1990s, Tenneco's stock price surged from Munger's purchase price of roughly \$1.50-\$2.00 to around \$15 per share by mid-to-late 2004





# Why Cooper Standard?



#### 3 Key Reasons

- Confident that management would refinance the debt due to asset coverage, meaning the company's assets could fully cover the debt in a liquidation
- 2) Betting on the Jockey... Management has a consistent history of <u>respecting</u> equity, bringing the share count DOWN and linking compensation to ROIC
- Unparalleled industry <u>operating</u> <u>leverage</u> emerging from a cyclical trough

Cooper-Standard is the leading global supplier of sealing systems, fuel and brake delivery, and fluid transfer systems for new vehicles

CooperStandard	
Ticker / Share Price	"CPS" / \$14.54
Market Cap	\$248.46M
Enterprise Value	\$1.24B
FY2023 Financials	
Revenue	\$2.82B
Adj. EBITDA	\$167.1M
Adj. EBITDA Margin	5.90%

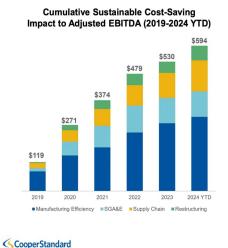
#### A Trusted Partner With a Strong Global Customer Base



## **Navigating a Tough Operating Environment**



#### **Continuing Aggressive Lean Initiatives to Further Optimize Costs**



Ongoing Initiatives Driving Savings in 2024

- Total of \$64m in cost savings achieved in 2024 YTD
  - \$50m from manufacturing/purchasing lean initiatives
  - \$14m from restructuring actions
    - Expected cost savings of \$20 \$25 million in 2024
    - Full annualized cost savings of \$40 \$45 million expected in 2025
    - Payback of restructuring costs in approximately 6 months
- Further footprint rationalization under consideration to align costs/capacity with industry demand

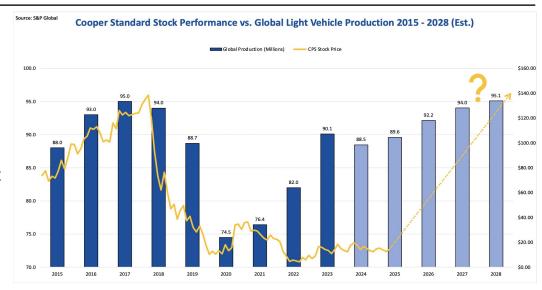
- Auto Industry finally moving past the worst of a costly semiconductor shortage that reportedly <u>cut 13 million vehicles</u> from global production since the start of 2021 (AutoForecast Solutions (AFS))
- While waiting for volumes to recover, management aggressively cut \$594 million in costs
- Management on track to achieve <u>double-digit EBITDA margins and ROIC</u> by the end of 2025
- Once volumes return, margins could **EXCEED** 2017-2018 levels given the significantly lower cost base

"The worst crisis ever to impact the automotive industry, a key sector of the world economy"
- OICA president Mr FU Bingfeng

#### **Volumes are the Name of the Game**



- CPS gets paid ~\$175 for every new vehicle produced (Unweighted average content per vehicle across top 10 platforms)
- In 2017, the U.S. had ~17.1M SAAR. CPS did \$3.62B in revenue, \$456M EBITDA (12.5% margins), \$7.21 EPS, and traded at \$146/share
- Generally every cycle has peaked out at ~18M SAAR. Estimates for 2024 are ~15.8M. We estimate ~\$3/share in EPS for every 200,000 cars above 15.7M annual SAAR
- With a leaner cost base, we estimate CPS can <u>SURPASS \$7-\$8 in EPS</u> once production volumes return to pre-COVID levels.

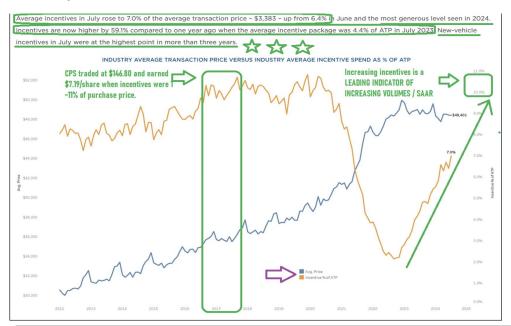


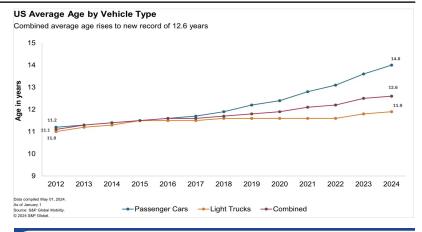


## **Strong Industry Tailwinds**



- Record high age of average vehicle = 12.6 years
- Rising new vehicle **Incentives**
- Hybrids and EVs have ~80% and ~20% higher content per vehicle for CPS = <u>ADDITIONAL UPSIDE</u>





#### Powertrain Evolution Generating Increased CPV Opportunities

Innovative Solutions Address Increasingly Complex Thermal Management Requirements

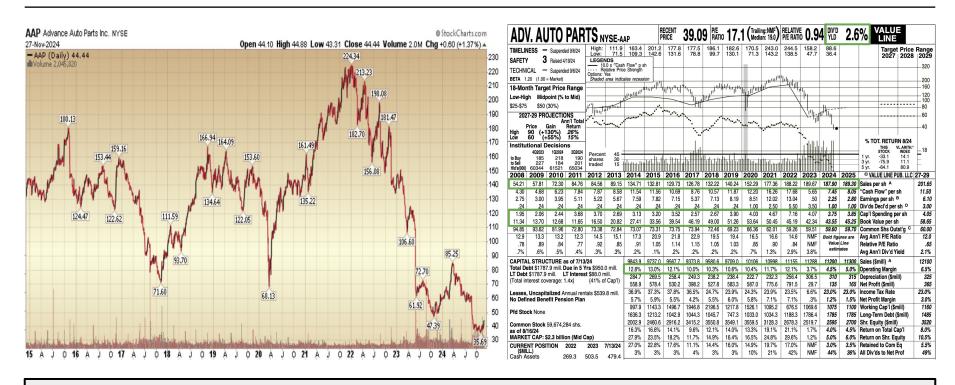
CooperStandard Sunching after 2024, such as eCoFlow®





#### **#2 Turnaround Tom Pick : Advance Auto Parts**





Built a position in Advance Auto Parts at a blended basis of ~\$45.37.



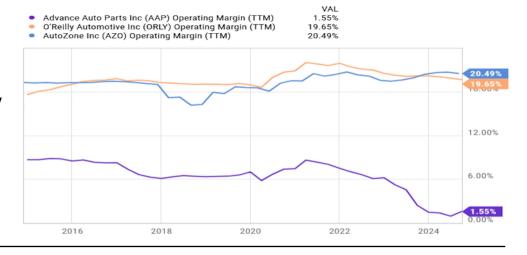
#### What's the Problem?



- AAP has fallen over 80% peak to trough, from around \$244 to about \$43
- Weakest operating margins in over 20 years due to previous leadership's aggressive expansion and investment strategy to the detriment of profitability
- A highly leveraged balance sheet, with a leverage ratio over 4x, raised solvency concerns. By the end of FY2023, the company had approximately \$500 million in cash and nearly \$1.8 billion in debt, resulting in a "junk" credit rating

<b>Advance</b> Auto Parts		
Ticker / Share Price	"AAP" / \$43.80	
Market Cap	\$2.6B	
Enterprise Value	\$3.94B	
FY2023 Financials		
Revenue	\$11.29B	
Operating Income	\$114.4M	
EBIT Margin %	1.00%	

AAP is a leading automotive aftermarket parts provider in North America, that serves both professional installer and do-it-yourself customers



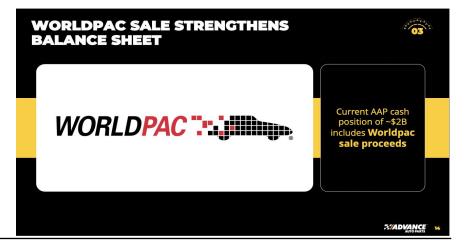


## **Key Catalysts for the Turnaround**



- Solvency risk now off the table with the \$1.5 billion sale of the WorldPac business (\$1.2B net proceeds), a massive cash cushion worth nearly half its market cap. Proceeds to be used to bring debt ratio down to 2.5x
- Management's consolidation of Distribution Centers (13 from 38) with nodes that will create supply chain efficiency.
   \$50M in procurement savings expected in 2025 with positive benefits already realized (i.e., 15% increase in volume per truckload)
- Plan to close >700 unprofitable locations in 2025. The revised store footprint means 75% of AAP's stores will be in a #1 or #2 position in terms of store density and have ~ 4% increased sales per square foot







## **Betting on the Jockey...CEO Shane O'Kelly**



- Newly appointed CEO Shane O'Kelly is a <u>proven winner</u>. He previously served as CEO of HD Supply, a <u>\$7 billion division of</u> <u>Home Depot</u>, and led PetroChoice, the world's largest distributor of lubricants. He also spent seven years as an Army officer
- Dan Loeb's Third Point also strengthened AAP's board by adding three new directors, including former O'Reilly executives and industry CEOs with supply chain and merchandising expertise
- Management has <u>skin in the game</u>, with <u>67 open market stock</u>
   <u>purchases</u> in the past 12 months





Shane O'Kelly Senior Vice President, Home Depot CEO, HD Supply

Shane O'Kelly is SVP of the Home Depot and also serves as CEO of HD Supply, a critical part of the company's strategy to serve Pro customers in the maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) industry. Prior to his current role, he served as the CEO of Interline Brands, Inc. which was subsequently rebranded as Home Depot Pro.

Before joining The Home Depot, Shane served as CEO of PetroChoice, the nation's largest distributor of lubricants and lubrication solutions. Prior to that role, he was CEO of AH Harris, a specialty construction supply distributor. Shane also worked as an engagement manager at McKinsey and Company.

Shane's early career included rich experience at The Home Depot. He originally joined the company in 2003 as director of strategic business development before being promoted to regional vice president.

Shane served seven years as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army. During his service, he graduated from both Airborne and Ranger schools and served as a rifle platoon leader and company commander. He completed numerous deployments with the 1st Cavalry Division and the 325th Airborne.

Shane holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a bachelor's degree from West Point.

#### ###

HD Supply (<a href="www.hdsupply.com">www.hdsupply.com</a>) is one of the largest industrial distributors in North America. The company provides a broad range of products and value-add services to approximately 500,000 customers with leadership positions in the maintenance, repair and operations, and specialty construction sectors. Through approximately 270 branches and 44 distribution centers in the U.S. and Canada, the company's approximately 11,500 associates provide localized, customer-tailored products, services and expertise.



#### The Path to ~\$100+

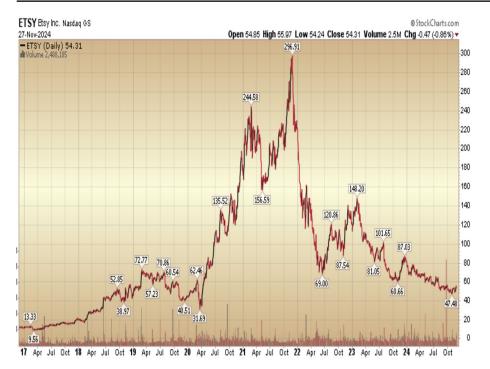


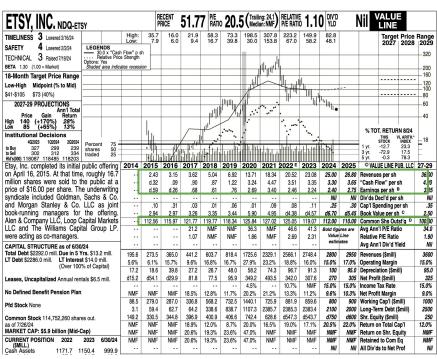
- >500 bps margin expansion driven by cost factors alone. Even with 7% operating margins, AAP would still be well below its historical averages (8% 10%) and ~65% behind its industry peers
- Management's targets suggest \$630M operating income in FY2027. The last 4 times they had operating income in the \$600Ms were 2018 (\$617M), 2019 (\$679M), 2022 (\$670M), the business earned \$5.75, \$6.87 and \$7.70 in EPS
- In those respective years, when the share count was as much as 10.5% higher than today, the stock reached highs of \$186.1, \$182.6 and \$244.50 in each of those years
- A ~10% reduction in shares outstanding, combined with +\$600M in operating income, points to EPS
   EXCEEDING prior levels. The key is whether a peak or trough multiple is applied? Either way, this suggests at least a doubling from current prices



# **#3 Turnaround Tom Pick : Etsy**







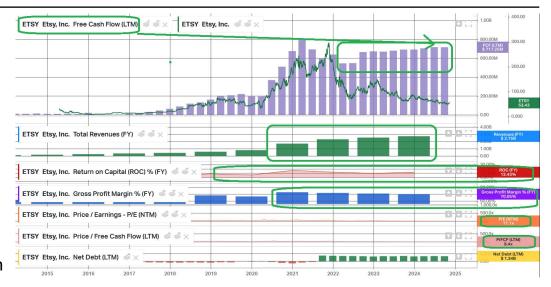
Built a position in Etsy at a blended basis of  $\sim$ \$49.



# Why We Like Etsy

Etsy

- Fourth most visited e-commerce site in the U.S. by monthly traffic
- Carved out a competitive niche by not competing on price or fulfillment speed with other "race to the bottom" competitors and instead focused on <u>handmade and custom</u> goods
- Largely retained its pandemic-related gains, with GMS at \$13.16 billion in FY2023, compared to \$13.49 billion in FY2021. This includes recovering from lost pandemic-driven sales, such as the \$875 million in face mask sales from 2020-2021
- CEO Josh Silverman is a proven winner, with prior experience at eBay and as CEO of Skype, where he added 300 million new users, doubled revenues, and tripled profits.



Etsy		
Ticker / Share Price	"ETSY" / \$55.17	
Market Cap	\$6.16B	
Enterprise Value	\$7.41B	
FY2023 Financials		
Revenue	\$2.75B	
Adj. EBITDA	\$753.1M	
Adj. EBITDA Margin %	27.40%	

Etsy operates two-sided online marketplaces that connect millions of passionate and creative buyers and sellers around the world.

#### **Re-accelerating Growth**



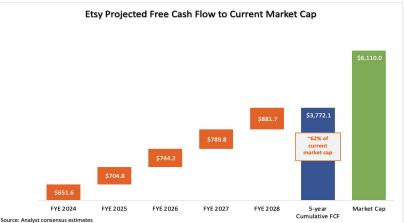
- "Gift Mode" showing promising signs, with 27% of marketplace sales tied to gifting, growing 4.1% during Q2 FY2024
- Currently holds ~1% of \$200B gifting TAM.
   Every 1% increase in share = \$2B GMS
   opportunity
- Launched its first loyalty program to boost purchase frequency, recognizing that ~50% of customers make only one purchase a year
- Long-term opportunities = International expansion (yields higher payment fees) and building awareness among men who currently represent only 10% of customers
- Undercover play on housing market recovery, with <u>>35%</u> of Etsy's sales coming from the "Home and Living" category



# **Capital Light Model = Free Cash Flow Machine**





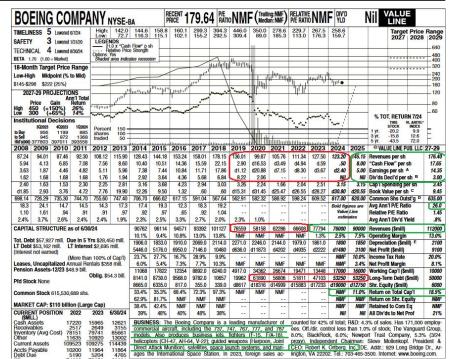


- Asset-light model needs little capital investment, with no warehouses or inventories. This drives >90% conversion of adjusted EBITDA to free cash flow and more than ~24% FCF as a percentage of net sales
- Projected cumulative free cash flow over the next 5 years is more than 60% of Etsy's total market cap
- From 2017 to 2023, management used >60% of FCF for share repurchases and recently announced a new \$1B repurchase program. YTD repurchases total ~\$465M, Assuming the same pace in Q4, repurchases for FY2024 could reach ~\$650M, reducing shares outstanding by as much as ~8%
- Fortress balance sheet with ~1.2B of cash, ~\$2.3B long-term debt, and no maturities until 2026

#### \*BONUS\* Turnaround Tom Pick: Boeing







Built a position in Boeing at a blended basis of  $\sim$ \$160.30.



# **Boeing Isn't Going Anywhere**



- As a leading global aerospace company, Boeing develops, manufactures and services commercial airplanes, defense products and space systems for customers in more than 150 countries.
- Commercial airframe manufacturing is a growing global duopoly with Boeing or Airbus delivering >99% of commercial aircraft deliveries 2000 - 2022.
- Despite negative headlines, Boeing's \$0.5 trillion backlog continues to GROW significantly with 335 net orders valued at ~\$27.3B YTD.
- Emerging market growth (China expected to <u>double</u> its fleet by 2043) and <u>developed market</u> <u>replacement cycle</u> (rising average fleet age) will provide multi-year tailwind for orders and deliveries, driving growth over the next 20 years



#### Global fleet will double, nearly half of deliveries for replacement





# **New CEO Kelly Ortberg is a Key Catalyst**



- CEO Kelly Ortberg is an <u>engineer</u> who possesses a deep understanding of aerospace manufacturing. This is helpful when you want to keep doors on planes.
- Proven track record as former CEO of Rockwell Collins where he <u>doubled sales</u> in 6 years and <u>quadrupled</u> the value of the company for shareholders before selling it at a nice premium to United Technologies in 2019.
- Unlike his predecessor, Ortberg relocated to Seattle to be on the factory floors where commercial airplanes are actually built.

Ortberg scored a landmark success for Rockwell Collins in the mid-aughts, punching his ticket to the top. Honeywell had long been the largest supplier to Boeing for avionics (the control, display, and other systems that go into the cockpit and that pilots rely on to fly the planes). But in the mid-aughts, Ortberg helped develop avionics that incorporated sophisticated software that made the new systems much more advanced than the previous versions that were far more hardware based. Whereas the old avionics had to be purpose-built for individual aircraft models, and unique to each series, the fresh Rockwell product was much more adaptable to different airplane types. The innovative offering won Rockwell a huge share of the avionics for the 787 Dreamliner, which turned into a big hit for Boeing. Says Spingarn, "That 787 win using advanced software really put Kelly on the map." He rose to COO of commercial systems in 2010, and upon Jones's retirement, became CEO of Rockwell Collins in 2013.

#### Ortberg goes to RTX, but his sojourn is short

Over the next six years, Ortberg roughly doubled Rockwell Collins sales to around \$9 billion, in part by making a series of acquisitions, including aerospace communications provider Arinc. Around Thanksgiving of 2019, United Technologies bought Rockwell Collins for \$23 billion in equity, four times its valuation when Ortberg took charge. The new owner folded Rockwell's businesses into its own giant aerospace segment that included franchises acquired from Sundstrand and Goodrich. Ortberg headed the new unit called Collins Aerospace, that comprised 70,000 employees. Its \$23 billion in sales made the newly-formed giant the third largest aerospace company in the world after Boeing and Airbus.

#### **Contact Information**

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# Thank You! \*Opinion, Not Investment Advice

