



*Margaret Thatcher*

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May I send my very best wishes to all the members of the American Legislative Exchange Council as you gather for your annual conference in Chicago.

This year marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of your founding and you have much to be proud of. During those years you have championed the cause of smaller government against the tendency of the state to gather more and more power to itself. As President Reagan famously said, "Government doesn't solve problems; it subsidises them." Your task is to encourage individuals, families and communities to take greater responsibility for their lives and to devolve power away from central government returning it to local people.

You have achieved an enormous amount already but our task never ends. So steel yourselves for the struggles ahead and draw strength once more from that undaunted spirit of freedom which underpins your great nation.

*Margaret Thatcher*