JASON WAYNE DEBEKOVEN

they normally couldn't get to. Also, the water ines set in place to water the livestock by the methane is an opportunity that land owners couldn't afford otherwise. Before methane, our summer pasture was 3,000 acres with a spring in only one corner. In you imagine the impact on the grass in that corner by late summer? Our calves were at a stand still. Whatever weight they gained, they lost trying to get back to water. Now with the benefit of the methane, our grass is utilized and our calves keep growing. The wildlife has moved that in and for once we've been able to put in division fences and rotate through different sections of that 3,000 acres allowing a more productive cattle operation. The drainages stay greener longer. Birds and wildlife are flourishing.

I'm here today to ask you to not only keep an open mind, but to PLEASE listen to the land owners. It's in our backyards everyday.

It seems to me that anytime we shut down progress in this country, jobs and opportunity end up going elsewhere.

Country, jobs and opportunity end up going elsewhere.

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It seems like every year we as land owners are becoming permitted to do things on our land. The government wants us to pay the taxes and then turn around and dictate to us how we are going to operate the land. Pretty soon, we are not going to be permitted to do anything on our own land.

"Be careful of the laws you create today because your children and grand children will have to live by those laws tomorrow."

The freedom and environment our children will grow up in can and will be affected by the decisions <u>you</u> make. Most of you understand how hard it is to make a living on a ranch. You have to be diversified. Usually, one or both spouses have to hold down an outside job just to support your ranch.

I've seen many benefits transpire from the methane, for example, good jobs that are close to home for many of the ranchers, the insurance, and the road access. The roads that the methane companies have built, have given the people the access to fight fires in rough terrain and get to places