

## **Trauner speaks at Wyo Rural Water event**

### **Candidate wants workers to know they're important**

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By Megan Lee, Casper Star-Tribune Staff writer

Democratic Congressional candidate Gary Trauner spoke about the importance of water and sewage operators during the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems Spring Technical Conference and Industry Trade Show Tuesday at the Parkway Plaza Hotel and Convention Centre in Casper.

“Your jobs are not glamorous. We all know that,” Trauner said to a crowd of several hundred industry workers. “But what they are, is they’re indispensable and they need to be done well.”

Chairman of the Aspens Water and Sewer District in Teton County, Trauner became involved with water issues after a neighbor suggested he work with the district board. He said he never realized how important water workers were before then.

“Safe drinking water and safe sewage treatment clearly is a health issue,” Trauner said. “Also, we’re a growing state – we’re in a boom right now. We’re not going to get any of the growth that we really desire if we don’t do it right, and we don’t have the water and sewage requirements that we need for economic development.”

Trauner said he spoke at the convention because he wanted industry workers to feel appreciated, despite their often thankless jobs.

“The simple truth is, it’s one of those things that’s out of sight, out of mind,” Trauner said. “I want them to know that they matter. And I am proud to be a water and sewer district board member.”

Trauner, who hopes to replace the outgoing Barbara Cubin as Wyoming’s sole U.S. House representative, planned to open his first campaign office in Casper later Tuesday evening. He plans to open another office in Cheyenne.

Trauner said he advocates “common sense capital” – spending when necessary but spending appropriately – and, if elected, he’d be happy to sit on a committee with jurisdiction over water and sewage regulations.

“Nobody likes regulations because regulations make our job harder in some sense,” he said, noting the expenses that are sometimes associated with regulations. “But if you have reasonable regulations, then everybody’s on a level playing field and everybody knows what the rules are.”