

## **Mitrano addresses Dresser-Rand, economic climate**

**By Vaughn Golden**

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ITHACA — Democratic congressional candidate Tracy Mitrano was fielding questions from voters at a town hall event two hours east of Wellsville Friday when a voter asked her about the closing of the Dresser-Rand facility.

“It’s a German company. It makes — what are those things, things in engines, car parts,” Mitrano said, struggling to pinpoint exactly what the plant produces.

“Large carbines, it’s — anyway, 19th, 20th century technology for motors. I want those people to have jobs and if there’s a way to protect people’s jobs in this district I want to go to Congress as their representative and do that.”

Dresser-Rand produces compressors, steam turbines and valves that service the US Navy, with its products powering aircraft carriers and submarines.

In February, Siemens announced it was selling the Dresser-Rand operation to Curtiss-Wright and would be closing its Wellsville manufacturing facility by 2020, impacting about 250 workers.

When asked to clarify what steps she would proactively take to preserve manufacturers such as Dresser-Rand in communities like Wellsville, Mitrano spoke to the state’s tax climate.

“I think there are particular things that can be done,” she said. “Tax issues, you can create enterprise zones, you can create incentives, and all of those things could and should be done for workers in this district, but what I’m also talking about is something larger than that. It’s talking about regenerating the economy of this entire district and that takes more than an enterprise zone or a special tax deduction plan and that’s what I’m shooting for with healthcare and education, infrastructure and balanced environmental conservation.”

Mitrano also claims that the 2017 federal tax reform's capping of the state and local tax deduction is hurting businesses and adding to the state's relatively high taxes. She places blame on incumbent Republican Rep. Tom Reed, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, for helping write the legislation.

"How Mr. Reed could be the author and the promoter of that tax bill and then turn around and say he's trying to protect jobs in this district is nothing short of a ludicrous hypocritical statement," Mitrano said.

The Dresser-Rand question came up in a town hall event hosted at Ithaca's Southside Community Center. Mitrano is hosting one in each of the 23rd congressional district's 11 counties as part of her campaign's "one district" initiative centered around building a broad coalition of Democrats from Ithaca to Jamestown.

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