



Cheyenne lawyer Harriet Hageman speaks about government regulations during a forum on national debt at Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne on Wednesday. Michael Smith/staff

Local lawyer receives standing ovation

By Becky Orr

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CHEYENNE – The federal government should not make decisions best left to the states, a Cheyenne lawyer said Wednesday.

“States are where the policy decisions should be made, not at the federal level,” Harriet Hageman said, speaking at the Wyoming Forum at Little America Hotel and Resort. The audience gave her a standing ovation.

“We need to be looking at the states for making decisions that benefit all of us.”

States each have different priorities. “When you make decisions at a federal level, you are unable to recognize those differences and unable to pursue the policies that

are best” for those states, she said.

“We have a federal government that is non-responsible and not accountable to the people.”

She spoke of the impact of federal regulatory burdens. Some agencies use regulations as forms of punishments to residents.

Hageman called for an across-the-board house cleaning at the federal level. She supported closing the majority of federal agencies and returning power to the states and their residents.

She asked why, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency exists when every state has a division of environmental quality.

“Our federal government is frankly fundamentally dysfunctional,” she said.