

Petitions

hidden from Canadians and will apply to virtually everything they buy and that the imposition of this new proposed goods and services tax will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and medium income Canadians.

Therefore the petitioners, believing that the House of Commons will grant them a remedy, do pray that such a remedy be granted and that Parliament reject the proposed goods and services tax.

EDUCATION—TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present three different petitions. The first petition is asking Parliament to ensure that any changes to the federal sales tax will not change the tax exempt status of education and related personal enrichment activities because educational activities have been traditionally exempt from taxation.

VIA RAIL

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, the second petition, which is from a number of people on the lower mainland of British Columbia, calls on Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment, and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry on its mandate to provide passenger service.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, the third petition is calling upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax; to reform the tax system so that there is an effective minimum tax on the wealthy individuals and corporations; to ensure that if and when there is a broad public consensus on a sales tax measure this reform not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab; and to cause the government to cease with a proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions. The first one deals with the government's intentions to shut down passenger rail services in Canada.

The people who signed this petition humbly submit to this House that the Government of Canada has decided to eliminate many of VIA Rail's existing routes and thousands of jobs. They state that the people of Canada deserve a high quality passenger rail service, including modernized equipment throughout the network and a rapid rail system for the corridor; that the rail passenger mode is the safest and the most environmentally friendly mode of travel; that annual subsidies provided by the Government of Canada to VIA Rail are not disproportionate to subsidization required for highly infrastructural airports; that several rural communities rely exclusively on rail passenger services; and that the tourism industry in Canada also relies on rail passenger services.

The people who signed humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the Government of Canada not to cancel, in whole or in part, rail passenger services in Canada.

[*Translation*]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): I have a second petition, Mr. Speaker, one more in a series of petitions I have presented in the House, which is signed by constituents of Ottawa—Vanier and by visitors to the beautiful riding of Ottawa—Vanier, all of whom object to this federal sales tax on goods and services and who call upon Parliament to reject out of hand this new tax on goods and services because it will be inflationary, will harm the Canadian economy and cause serious and undue hardship for middle- and low-income families.

[*English*]

RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition duly certified under Standing Order 36 from people in my constituency who call upon Parliament to enact legislation which will effectively protect the life of the preborn child without distinction as to stage of development.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition from many Canadians in the greater Toronto region. The petition has been certified correct as to form and content.