

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Madam Speaker, I have two petitions to present to the House today, pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The first is signed by residents primarily of 100 Mile House, British Columbia, and also Lac La Hache.

The petitioners express concern about this tax crazy government and its plan to introduce a goods and services tax. They call upon Parliament to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations and to pursue a number of other measures that will ensure we have a fairer tax system.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Madam Speaker, the second petition, also certified correct under Standing Order 36, is with regard to VIA Rail and is signed by residents in the province of Ontario who express their concern about this government's cuts to VIA Rail.

They call upon Parliament to maintain VIA Rail, to upgrade it with new equipment, and to give VIA a sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate.

I know they share my concern that probably the next step under this government will be to introduce legislation to create VIA Rail in HO scale, and that is not what we want in this country.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition on behalf of a number of western Canadians, pursuant to Standing Order 36 and certified correct by the clerk of petitions.

If I could summarize, the petitioners simply cannot believe that the government would actually impose a tax on diapers and coffins and everything in between. Virtually anything that moves is going to be taxed at 9 per cent.

The petitioners list a whole range of things which I will not take time to read, but there must be at least a dozen different reasons why they oppose the tax. They simply ask the government to reject the proposed goods and services tax, to reform our tax system with a minimum corporate tax, and to ensure that there is no taxation on essential goods such as haircuts, certain food products and the like.

The petition goes on for pages and pages.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, I also have a petition on another matter relating to the ongoing saga of thousands of Canadians speaking out every day against the government's decision to reduce passenger rail service in Canada.

The petitioners point out that we are virtually the only country in the world that is doing this. Because of the fact that passenger rail service is environmentally friendly in terms of a way to travel, most other countries are expanding, investing and modernizing their passenger rail, whereas this government in its traditional fashion is curtailing and eliminating this service in large parts of the country.

The petitioners are asking the government to come to its senses and do what every other western industrialized nation is doing, that is, expand and modernize passenger rail service.

[Translation]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present today a petition signed by over 2,000 citizens who oppose the government's proposed tax, the goods and services tax.

The community is very disturbed, shocked and annoyed to see that for the first time in history, there will be a federal tax on services. Instead of only some products, on which the manufacturers' tax has been increased, now all or nearly all products will be taxed. We have not yet seen the details of the proposal. Now services! In the community, merchants are seriously concerned, as are consumers. Moreover, the interest rate is a real cause for concern.

[English]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, it is my honour today to present three petitions signed by many concerned Canadians who object to the proposed goods and services tax. They believe that this new tax will cause higher inflation, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment.

Therefore they call upon the government to reject this proposed goods and services tax.