

## FORESTRY

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition on another issue from the residents of Little Fort, British Columbia, who are concerned about the federal-provincial forest resource development agreement that has yet to be signed.

I am pleased to see that the minister is here. I will direct this point to him. The petitioners point out that the forest industry of Canada is Canada's pre-eminent industry in terms of export earnings. They point out the advantages of the present agreement in terms of providing employment as well as regenerating our forests and they ask Parliament to renew this important agreement with British Columbia and thereby provide for a renewed commitment to restocking our forest land, advancing forest research, promoting silviculture and assisting the forest industry in developing the new products and markets that will provide us with forestry jobs in the future.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I also am honoured to present a petition which expresses the views of many Canadians opposing the goods and services tax because it is an unfair form of taxation which disregards the taxpayers' ability to pay. The government has not addressed the unfair tax system which permits wealthy individuals and corporations to pay little or no federal tax. It is taxing a number of things such as reading, haircuts, diapers, coffins and home heating fuels.

Therefore, the petitioners call on Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax and to bring in a tax system that is more effective, including a minimum tax on wealthy individuals. They say that this reform must not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition approximately 1,600 signatures from all parts of my constituency and a number of adjoining constituencies, all making the case that the current proposal for a goods and services tax is not acceptable to them.

In their view, reform of the tax system to provide an effective, minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corpo-

*Routine Proceedings*

rations is more important and if there is a change in taxation there should be a broad public consensus with respect to such change. In this case, the only consensus is a consensus in opposition to this government's changes.

## NORTHERN BENEFITS

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36. It is signed by 632 constituents of my riding of Cochrane—Superior and, more specifically, from the town of Manitouwadge.

These residents are very concerned about a task force report on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas. This task force would see some 37 communities in my riding no longer eligible for the tax benefit.

Manitouwadge is 45 miles north of Highway 17 and well over 400 kilometres from the town of Thunder Bay. Therefore, the petitioners from Manitouwadge call upon Parliament to reject this task force report in its totality.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Joe Fontana (London East):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, it is my duty to present to this House a petition from my constituents. It seems most appropriate on this budget day that the citizens of Canada from London are asking this government to scrap the proposed goods and services tax which will cause undue hardship to small business, seniors, students and people in lower income groups. They ask the government to rescind its action on the GST.

• (1120)

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**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions to the House today, one from Saanich in the Victoria area and another signed by residents from all across British Columbia who, on this very important budget day, are also asking the federal government to ensure that the federal-provincial forest agreement between this Parliament and the government in Victoria is signed to ensure that we can get the replanting that is needed in our deforested lands.

The minister is here today. He knows our concerns and he knows what we are looking for in the budget tonight to ensure that agreement is signed.