

Routine Proceedings

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table ten petitions containing the names of 300 residents of Stormont—Dundas who are opposed to the GST because it unfairly hits popular and affordable recreational sports in Canada. They believe that taxing participatory sports is a basic mistake because it places an unfair burden on working men and women, seniors, young people and the disabled who participate in recreational sports on limited incomes. They therefore urge the House to reject this insidious tax.

[English]

VIA RAIL

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 36, considering that this is the last opportunity to address this matter in the House of Commons before the closure of the VIA Canadian line on January 15, I am pleased to present the last in a series of petitions. These two petitions, signed by 108 constituents from the city of Revelstoke in British Columbia, point out that the city of Revelstoke will become a truly isolated community should VIA Rail passenger service be discontinued because the Trans-Canada Highway experiences winter closures due to avalanches and there is no scheduled to air service to the community.

They further point out that this discontinuance of rail passenger service will put more vehicles on the Trans-Canada Highway through the Rogers Pass. The highway is already close to capacity in the summer months and will require twinning at great expense to the people of Canada.

They also point out that the discontinuance of rail passenger service will put more vehicles on the highways passing through Glacier and Mount Revelstoke National Parks causing greater environmental damage to these ecological reserves.

Finally, they ask Parliament to proceed in such a way that passenger service will not be discontinued through this community and, before any such service cut takes place, that public hearings be held across Canada to investigate ways in which passenger rail service can be preserved and enhanced throughout the country.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present, on behalf of a number of citizens, ten petitions signed by citizens of my riding of Saskatoon—Humboldt and the riding of my colleague from Saskatchewan, the Minister of National Defence.

These citizens call upon the government to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and to reform the taxation system to make sure that it is a system which is not regressive and does not harm the ordinary Canadian.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honour, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition that is signed by about 200 residents from such places as Ottawa, Nepean, Sault Ste. Marie, Richmond, Kanata and Calabogie. These people are concerned with the proposal to discontinue so much of the service of VIA Rail which will injure small towns, youth and senior citizens.

They therefore ask Parliament to reject any proposed reductions or eliminations of VIA Rail, to modernize the existing equipment and to build a high-speed passenger train between Montreal and Windsor.

LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition from 100 residents of Toronto and Vancouver concerning the low-level flights being conducted in eastern Quebec and Labrador and the proposal for a NATO-NORAD base there. They ask Parliament to join with the Assembly of First Nations, the Innu of Labrador and other aboriginal peoples of northern Canada in opposing the use of their lands for NATO-NORAD attack training.

They demand that the low level flight training cease and that the government cease to ask for a NATO base in Labrador and that the funding for the Canada's NATO-NORAD operations be redirected to enable Canada's aboriginal peoples to regain control of their lands and their livelihood and for promoting sustainable development for all Canadians.

NORTHERN BENEFITS

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege today to present a large number of petitions—so large that I can