

Routine Proceedings

GASOLINE ADDITIVES

There is one amendment, Madam Speaker.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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[*English*]

PETITIONS

RAFFERTY-ALAMEDA DAMS

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Madam Speaker, I am pleased and honoured to present a petition on behalf of 87 students and staff of St. James Collegiate located in my riding of Winnipeg St. James.

This petition relates to the environment and specifically the Rafferty-Alameda dams project in Saskatchewan. The petition reads as follows:

Whereas the courts have ruled that a full environmental review must be conducted on the Rafferty-Alameda dams project in Saskatchewan;

Whereas construction on the Rafferty-Alameda dams project should have stopped during this environmental review;

Whereas construction has now resumed upon this project without an environmental assessment having been completed; and

Whereas this project may have serious repercussions upon the environment, including fish, migratory birds and the lands of the province of Manitoba and the federal government;

Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to take every possible action to stop construction on the Rafferty-Alameda dams project and to ensure that a full environmental assessment is conducted.

I would like to congratulate the students and staff of St. James Collegiate on their initiative. I thank them for caring, and we are all very proud of them.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Madam Speaker, I have one other batch of petitions. This batch of petitions comes from the city of Edmonton. It is pretty straightforward. It says:

The Government of Canada has seen fit since Confederation and without hiatus to apply a zero rate of tax to magazines, books and newspapers, and now proposes to include them in the goods and services tax.

The petitioners from the city of Edmonton humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in tax free status for the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations.

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Madam Speaker, I rise today to table nearly 1,000 names on these petitions gathered by CJBK radio station in London, Ontario.

These petitioners are calling on the government to withdraw MMT from the gasoline in Canada and replace it with ethanol, an environmentally friendly additive and octane enhancer.

These petitioners are aware that the use of ethanol would reduce carbon dioxide emissions rather than increase them. It would be a much more positive move than the proposals presented in the green plan yesterday.

FISHERIES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition which is from many people, particularly in the Chinese Canadian community in British Columbia, who are concerned about the diminishing supply of live codfish, which is an essential food for their community.

• (1540)

They state that live codfish is a commodity of high cultural and economic value as a staple fresh food to Asian Canadians and for millions of tourists who visit Canada. It is always in demand by Canadian families, restaurants and stores. The petitioners further state that because of negligent management of the commercial fishery and the unfair allocation to the sport fishery sector, there is a trend of increasingly seasonal and area closures.

This is disrupting what was formally a year-round fishery. If this trend of federal government negligence towards the live cod fishery continues, these fish soon will not be available especially to some 200,000 Canadians of Chinese descent who live throughout B.C.

Therefore the petitioners demand that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans recognize the special value of these fish to the Asian community and to visitors to Canada, and immediately initiate management action that will ensure that a year-round supply of live codfish is available. This must include adequate federal attention to the long-term sustainable management of these fish and their fair allocation.