

Routine Proceedings

signed by over 30 small business operators in New Westminster—Burnaby.

My second petition, Madam Speaker, is a petition that is signed by Canadians in the lower mainland area of Vancouver, British Columbia, and they are also asking for the goods and services tax to be rejected. They say that it lacks regard for a taxpayer's ability to pay and they ask this government to reject it and to reform the tax system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations.

LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): My third petition, Madam Speaker, is one that has been circulated by the Assembly of First Nations and the Innu of Labrador. They oppose the use of their lands for NATO—NORAD attack training and demand that the Canadian government end all NATO—NORAD low-level flight training in Canada. They also oppose the establishment of NATO operations in Canada and, in particular, the proposed training centre at Goose Bay, Labrador. This is a petition signed by almost 100 Canadians.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Madam Speaker, I have the honour, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition on behalf of my colleague, the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon. It concerns the government's decision to eliminate many of VIA Rail's existing routes and thousands of jobs across this country.

The petitioners from Thunder Bay note that Canada deserves a high quality passenger rail service, including modernized equipment throughout the network, and a rapid rail service for the corridor, that rail passenger service is the safest and most environmentally friendly mode of travel, that annual subsidies from the Government of Canada are not disproportionate to subsidies for other modes of transport, that many rural communities rely exclusively on rail passenger service, and that the tourism industry relies on rail transportation services. These petitioners pray that Parliament will restore rail passenger service to its full integrity throughout this country.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, I too rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36. I have the honour and privilege to present two groups of petitions, one from the town of Paris, Ontario, in my constituency, which was collected by the staff, customers, and operators of the Happy Time Video store in Paris, Ontario.

This petition severely criticizes the government for the GST and calls upon this House to force the government to withdraw the GST as it is a regressive form of taxation, and put in its place a more progressive income tax regime.

The other group of petitions contains names of citizens from all over Ontario, mainly southwestern Ontario, who also beseech the House of Commons to force the government to withdraw the GST in favour of a more equitable tax system.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Madam Speaker, like so many of my colleagues before me, I have the pleasure and duty of presenting several petitions from citizens who are opposed to the goods and services tax. These petitions bear the signatures of hundreds of Manitobans, including many who reside in my constituency of Winnipeg—St. James. These petitions cite the usual criticisms of the GST, including its regressivity and the fact that it will be a burden on millions and millions of Canadian taxpayers. While I recognize that the GST passed third reading in this House just yesterday, I think that millions of Canadians will never say die with respect to the GST. To quote that famous Yankee: "It's not over until it's over".

LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Madam Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition, signed by about 300 people from different parts of Canada—Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan—who support Canada's aboriginal people in the traditional use of their lands and seek new Canadian initiatives for peace through common security and disarmament rather than NATO—NORAD preparation for low-level, deep-strike attacks.

Therefore, they demand that the Canadian government end all NATO—NORAD low-level flight training in Canada. They especially oppose the establishment of